

Tuesday, July 24, 1973
Stuart Novins

WATERGATE

Good evening. John Ehrlichman, former Domestic Affairs adviser to President Nixon opened his testimony before the Senate Watergate Committee today, with a twenty-nine page statement that contradicted, and at times ridiculed the earlier testimony of John Dean.

Ehrlichman said he is innocent of any wrong doing - and he said John Dean had lied to the Committee, indicating that in his view, John Dean had primarily been responsible for the coverup.

Ehrlichman said he had authorized, at the President's direction, covert investigation of Daniel Ellsberg with a goal of getting at the records of Ellsberg's psychiatrist. But he denied he had authorized any breaking or entering to achieve that end. He said the President, acting on his constitutional powers, had justified the medical records break-in on the ground of national security.

The witness denied any participation in a Watergate coverup, but he testified he had discussed Watergate with the CIA Director and his Deputy and with the FBI to ensure that no CIA activities would be disclosed as a result of any FBI investigation of Watergate.

Ehrlichman returns to the witness chair when hearings resume in the morning.

TAPES

About those subpoenaed White House tape-recordings regarding Watergate - the White House spokesman, Gerald Warren said today Mr. Nixon will respond in appropriate fashion by Thursday. He said the response would be consistent with the previous statement of the President; that is, that turning over the tapes and documents would be an infringement on the Separation of Powers and Executive Privilege.

Attorney-General Elliot Richardson said today the President is on firm legal ground in refusing to give the tapes to the Senate Committee, but he suggested a compromise might be worked out to give information to special prosecutor Archibald Cox and the Grand Jury. Richardson did not spell out what kind of compromise might be possible, but he said one would be in the interest of Justice.

BELLINO

Republican National Chairman George Bush disclosed today he has three sworn affidavits that private investigators tried to spy on Richard Nixon during ^{the} Nineteen-Sixty presidential campaign. One of the investigators, he said, was Carmine Bellino, now chief investigator for the Senate Watergate Committee. Bellino says the charges are absolutely false. He says, "I categorically and unequivocally deny" any such ~~participation~~ participation or involvement.

SHAH

The Shah of Iran was a guest today at the White House. His arrival marked by a fanfare of trumpets - and some warm words of welcome from President Nixon. The President called the Shah - a "world statesman of the first rank." Mr. Nixon said that Iran is "in a very key central area - the Middle East and the Persian Gulf." It therefore gives the U.S. great "heart" - he continued - that Iran "has always contributed to the forces of peace and stability - rather than to war and destruction." "We welcome you" - he concluded - "as good friends and old friends."

In response - the Shah stressed that Iran must remain - militarily strong; and thus must maintain its close ties - with the U.S. "We have got to be in constant contact" - he said - "to preserve that for which we have worked - and in our case - for which we are ready to die."

SCHLESINGER

Defense Secretary James Schlesinger - was a witness again today before a Senate Committee; discussing the secret bombing raids over Cambodia - in Nineteen-Sixty-Nine-and-Seventy. Schlesinger later told reporters - that these raids were "authorized at the highest level" - that key members of Congress were also informed. He said - "There has been no usurpation of civilian authority."

The only mistake - he continued - was the listing of incorrect information - in an attempt to "cover" the raids. "But this was entirely different from Watergate" - said he; "There was no attempt whatever - to keep information from the top."

PENTAGON FOLLOW SCHLESINGER

At the Pentagon, Defense Department spokesman Jerry Friedheim disclosed today that eighty-one U.S. servicemen - were killed on secret intelligence missions in Laos and Cambodia; during the secret war while their deaths were falsely reported to their families and to Congress - as having occurred to South Vietnam.

Most of these men were said to have been Army Green Berets. Their missions - included observations along the HO Chi Minh Trail - checks of Communist bases inside Cambodia - and an assessment of secret U.S. bombing raids.

BOSTON

In Boston - the process has begun of selecting a new Massachusetts Commissioner of Corrections. One of the applicants is Joseph Pina - age thirty-seven - clearly an expert on the Massachusetts prison system. But Governor Sargent's office - says he is not among those being "seriously" considered.

Pina is currently an inmate at Walpole State Prison - serving fifteen-to-twenty-five years for armed robbery.

SENATE

Legislation was proposed in the Senate today to provide substantial public financing of presidential primaries and presidential general elections. Senator Richard Schweicker, Republican of Pennsylvania and Senator Walter Mondale, Democrat of Minnesota jointly sponsored the measure. The bill would provide money from Federal funds and it also would set a limit of three-thousand dollars on any individual private contribution to a presidential candidate.

GRAIN

The government's Commodity Exchange Authority said today that Continental Grain Company filed misleading reports to cover up the details of its sale of American grain to the Soviet Union last year.

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE "CRIPPLE CREEK"

And now - it's time again for Lowell Thomas;

recalling a tale of his youth - with a modern-day moral.

Lowell...

Some of you may recall how occasionally I mention the Cripple Creek-Victor gold mining district high up here in the mountains of Colorado. Since the price of gold has started going through the roof there has been talk of another ~~gold rush to~~ Cripple Creek, ^{gold rush.} But before you head ~~for these mountains in that direction,~~ perhaps I should give you an idea of what life was like in ~~such~~ a rip-roaring gold mining camp in those ^{older} days, and what it may be like again if there is a new boom.

Charles Finn had been successful in mining at both Leadville and Aspen, ~~some distance~~ to the West of Cripple Creek. He arrived in my home town with quite a ~~bundle,~~ ^{bundle,} ~~grabstake,~~ perhaps the equivalent of a quarter of a million dollars today, or more. But he had ~~some~~ hard luck, became partially paralyzed, and as ~~so often~~ happens in ~~a~~ mining camp^s he drank to excess. ~~and~~ ^{It} One day, ^{he} drew a gun on his wife and fired. But she ~~grabbed for~~ ^{deflected} the gun

and the bullet went through her hair, ^{When} ~~whereupon~~ she took it away from him. ^e He begged her to shoot him.

When she wouldn't do it he grabbed a butcher knife and severed his own jugular vein. As our Cripple Creek

newspaper ^{said - it was} ~~told the story at the time~~ "a sad ending to

a once promising life," for Charlie Finn was only ^{age} ~~years old~~ thirty-four.

~~You see~~ ^{can be} life ~~is~~ that way in a gold mining camp.

So keep ^{this} ~~it~~ in mind when you head for them thar hills.

SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE "CRIPPLE CREEK"

Thank you, Lowell. A final story - in a moment.

IRVINE

At Irvine, California; Quarterback Johnny Unitas is busy adjusting to the San Diego Chargers - after seventeen years with the Baltimore Colts. The famed passer saying his arm is okay - but his right knee is giving him problems.

He was asked, "Do you know what's wrong with it?"

He replied, "Yes" - "it's old."

Stuart Novins for Lowell Thomas.