

July 11, 1973
Wednesday
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Charles Kuralt

WATERGATE

Good evening. In the Senate Watergate hearings - John Mitchell, the former Attorney General stuck to the story he first told yesterday. Hour after hour, he fielded question after question; perhaps the greatest number - dealing with motivation.

Senator Inouye: As a friend and former confidant - "are you willing to lie to protect the President?"

Mitchell: "There is one great thing about the answer I can give to that. I don't have to make that choice - because, to my knowledge, the President was not knowledgeable, certainly about the Watergate - and certainly not about anything that had to do with the cover-up."

Senator Baker: Is there "anything at all" you would not have done - in order to ensure the President's re-election?

Mitchell: "Well, I'm sure that if it had to involve treason and other high crimes and misdemeanors - there

would have been a very definite breaking point."

Baker again: "Isn't it unfair" that because of your efforts to protect the President - "he is now undergoing the hostility and suspicion of a nation?"

Mitchell: "That's a statement that I'm not prepared to accept. I do not believe the nation feels that way. I do not believe anybody has come to the point - where they have one shred of evidence that he was knowledgeable of the break-in or cover-up."

Along the way, Mitchell also suggested a course of action that might enable the committee to gain access to the President himself. Mitchell urged the committee's two ranking members - to "go down and discuss it with him." Adding that he was confident - something could be "worked out." The White House response to that - no comment, for now - at least.

BENEFITS

President Nixon signed into law today - a bill increasing Social Security benefits by Five-Point-Six percent, as of next June. This, he said, is an attempt to enable "almost thirty million Americans - to meet the rising cost of living."

WHITE HOUSE FOLLOW BENEFITS

The President met with his Cabinet for two hours today.

The main topic of discussion is said to have been the President's forthcoming Phase Four economic program; which the White House later said would be unveiled - "relatively soon."

The President also sent to Congress today - a progress report on his economic stabilization program, along with a message - dealing with future plans. The President said that Phase Four will be "a system of controls - designed to curb inflation while also preserving the gains we have made in other sectors."

"My ultimate goal" - the President continued - "a goal I believe we can and must meet - is to return this country to a strong and free market system."

FULBRIGHT

A meeting of the American Bankers Association heard an address today - from Senator Fulbright of Arkansas; who urged a moratorium on the issue of Jewish emigration - in the interest of Jewish emigration - in the interest of improving U.S. and Soviet relations.

"Learning to live together in peace" - said Fulbright - "is the most important issue for the Soviet Union and the United States; too important to be compromised by meddling - even idealistic meddling - in each others' affairs."

Fulbright added: "It is simply not within the legitimate range of our foreign policy - to instruct the Russians in how to treat their own people - anymore than it is Brezhnev's business to lecture us on race relations - or on ■ such matters as the Indian protest at Wounded Knee."

PARIS

A Boeing Seven-Oh-Seven jet of the Brazilian Varig airline - crashed in a ball of flames tonight three miles short of the runway at Paris's Orly Airfield. More than one-hundred-twenty persons were killed. Nearby French farmers are said to have pulled thirteen survivors, from the wreckage, including the pilot, co-pilot and a stewardess, before they were forced away by the intense heat of the fire.

RYAN

Here in New York - death claimed today one of America's great actors. The veteran Robert Ryan - for more than thirty years, a star of both stage and screen, the victim of cancer.

He was aware of the nature of his illness, of course. He recently told an interviewer: "At first, it's a ~~sub~~ shock then you become reconciled. I am much more tolerant" - he said, "now that I know I'm on borrowed time; I see trees and flowers and pretty girls - I see beauty that I used to be oblivious to." And he added: "Actually life is much better - enjoying it day to day."

Now Robert Ryan's life has ended at the age of fifty-nine.

Now this message.

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE "PISA"

And now - it's time again for Lowell Thomas; with another of his tales - about far-away places. Lowell...

PISA

From Italy - a report that the famed Leaning Tower of Pisa - is now leaning more than ever. Pisa's superintendant of monuments - Dr. Umberto Tumini - says something must be done. At present there is an attempt to secure the Tower - hold it where it is - by means of heavy cables anchored in cement pylons.

But this - we are told - is only a temporary solution. Suggestions are pouring in from all over the globe; more than four thousand, so far - and still they come.

One man from Missouri - urging that the Tower be lined with steel; so it could then be held in place - by giant magnets in an adjacent trellis tower. An English landscape gardener - suggests as a prop a giant statue of William of Innsbruck - one of the Tower's original architects. A ten year-old Italian school girl has a simple suggestion. She says why not "dig out some of the sandy soil underneath the other side of the Tower - and it will then settle back till it's straight."

PISA - 2

*With all Man's present skill at solving scientific
problems surely someone will come to the rescue of Pisa's
wonder of the world - the Leaning Tower!*

NEW YORK

Bobby Riggs versus Billie Jean King - for the world's women's tennis championship - signed, sealed and delivered today in New York. The fifty-five-year-old Riggs agreeing to meet Mrs. King - in a One Hundred Thousand-Dollar match, winner-take all. The date and site are still to be determined.

Self-styled "tennis hustler" Riggs is the man who demolished Mrs. Margaret Court in a similar match last Spring. But Mrs. King - who has just won her third Wimbledon crown - says this time it'll be different. "I will not be intimidated" - said she - "by court-side gamesmanship."

YORKSHIRE

The rolling hills of Yorkshire in England - have long been noted for their rustic beauty and charm. And then - just a few months ago - the discovery of a vast coal deposit; in every direction for a total of about thirty square miles. Just perfect for pit mining - or so it seemed; except that a group of environmentalists is attempting to block the project. The case has reached, finally Britain's National Coal Board - which now renders its verdict.

"We know that this is Nineteen-Seveny-Three and not Eighteen-Seveny-Three" - said a Coal Board spokesman.

"We know" - he continued - "that mining will change this part of the world." But "you cannot ignore coal of that quality at that depth - when the world is facing a fuel shortage" - said he. Adding: "So far as the Coal Board is concerned - the pit is on."

GLASGOW

Britain's Prince Philip - the Duke of Edinburgh - has sent a message to the British press. The Prince, noting his reputation with newsmen - "is not all that good," said "If anyone can offer me any advice about this reputation - I shall be more than grateful."

Ask and ye shall receive. A column today in the Daily Mail by one Vincent Mulchrone - answers the Prince's plea. "For many years" - said he - "the Duke of Edinburgh has been boorish, rude, imperious and negligent of the press; in a manner" - quite unlike that of "his wife, the monarch." Mulchrone went on - "We, the press, used to call him 'Phil the Greek' - it was a misnomer - he used to behave more like a Prussian."

Mulchrone concedes, however - that Philip has always been good copy. Therefore, his final advice to the Prince is "stay just as sweet as you are."

This is Charles Kuralt for Lowell Thomas.