

Friday, July 27, 1973
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WATERGATE

Round and round they go - the Senate Watergate hearings with John Ehrlichman again in the hot-seat today - for the fourth straight day.

The President's former chief domestic affairs adviser - told of a series of meetings with former White House counsel John Dean; twenty-nine meetings, in all - starting within two weeks of the Watergate break-in and continuing on for ten months. "He told me a number of things" - Ehrlichman - many of which were not publicly known for some weeks.

Ehrlichman added that the information he received from Dean - he then relayed to the President. But he stressed that it wasn't until March of this year - that it dawned on him that White House people might have been involved. He thought that Dean had been telling him the truth and briefing him fully - he continued - but now knows that, quote, "such was not the case." (over)

Ehrlichman also told of meeting with the President - shortly after Dean supposedly bared the whole story. The President reportedly giving no indication - that he knew anything more than before. Ehrlichman said he was thus forced to assume that "one of two things - was taking place; either the President believed that the White House was without blame - and that Mr. Mitchell was without blame, and was acting accordingly; or he was involved in setting a few snares on the trail - and was playing it cool."

COX

A personal declaration of independence today - from Special Watergate Prosecutor Archibald Cox. This - in a special news conference. Cox pledged an all-out court battle - in an effort to gain access to those disputed White House tapes.

Cox added, however, that the White House has already supplied him - with a list of Nineteen-Seventy-Two campaign contributors; thereby allowing him to "press forward very vigorously" - as he put it - with an investigation of possibly illegal corporate donations.

CAPE KENNEDY

At Cape Kennedy - the countdown was "right on schedule" today; proceeding steadily toward a launch early tomorrow - for America's second Skylab crew. The weather forecast - remains favorable.

Astronauts Alan Bean, Owen Garriott and Jack Lousma - underwent their final physical check-ups. A-okay - all the way. And the rest of the day - brushing up on key phases of their flight plan. Also, visiting with family and friends - who have come to watch the launch.

SANTIAGO

In the early hours today in suburban Santiago - a bomb blast in the garden of a naval aide to Chile's President Allende. The aide Captain Arturo Araya grabbed a submachine gun - raced out on a second-floor balcony; whereupon he himself was cut down - by submachine guns wielded by alleged right-wing terrorists.

Araya's assassination followed a party that both he and Allende attended - at the Cuban Embassy in Santiago. This marked the twentieth anniversary - of the start of the Castro movement. The assassination also comes - in the midst of a nationwide truckers' strike. Incidentally, officials now added that all three of Allende's military aides - recently received threatening letters.

You may recall, an attempted military coup in Chile - less than a month ago. The death toll then - coming to twenty-one.

ROGERS

Secretary of State William Rogers - a witness today before a Senate Foreign Affairs subcommittee. Despite the continuing warfare in Cambodia ~~and~~ - he foresees better days ahead in Indochina.

"I am satisfied" - said Rogers - "that North Vietnam will not continue the war in Indochina - on a large scale." But "what they will do" - said he - "of that, I am not certain."

ATLANTIC

From the wreck of the Andrea Doria off Nantucket Island - a report today that "mother is down." The "mother" they were referring to - a submarine living chamber; which has now been firmly attached - to the sunken ship's hull. A spokesman added that "everything went well - everybody is in a state of euphoria." And now begins - the search for sunken treasure; perhaps as much as Two Million -in cash and other valuables.

LONDON

At Number Ten Downing Street - Britain's Prime Minister Heath met today with top British labor chiefs. Heath attempting to build support - for a program of voluntary wage and price controls. His own Phase Three - patterned after the Nixon-style anti-inflation program.

Today's session - came at a time when the pound is still struggling on world markets. It also follows the defeat of Conservative candidates - in two Parliamentary by elections held in normally Conservative strongholds. This is seen as a vote of "no confidence" - in the government's efforts so far to control inflation.

BELFAST

At Belfast in Northern Ireland - for the second weekend in a row - "Operation Sealed City;" with an estimated eight thousand British troops - patrolling the city's streets; attempting to clamp a lid on civil strife - just as they did last weekend.

HOUSE

From a House Public Works subcommittee - a report today based on a six-year study of U.S. highways; noting that some time next year, "the nation will pass a bloody milestone - of two million traffic deaths since the advent of the motor car;" an indication - we are told - that, indeed, "something has gone awry - in the nation and its highway program."

Just what - hard to say. The report goes on to suggest, however, that too much emphasis - may have been placed on the "nut" or the drunk driver - as the major cause of accidents; and too little - on the hazards actually built into the system. Said the report "Highway professionals have been judged and rewarded" - "almost entirely by their ability to build - and hardly at all by their ability to engineer safety and human accommodation."

The House panel summed up its findings - by saying: "The message is simply - think people."

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE "HAIL ALLEY"

And now--it's time again for Lowell Thomas. His subject tonight--"Hail Alley." Lowell....

... "Hail Alley". It's an area in the mid-
west extending from southeastern Wyoming through
Nebraska, and part of Colorado - all the way south
and into western Kansas. It's an area which
usually is the source of heavy hailstorms - those in
and other part of our country. A national Hail
Research Experiment has been undertaken there
in an attempt to prevent or reduce hailstorm damage
especially in Nebraska and Kansas where hailstorms
have been causing an average of two billion dollars
three hundred million a year. Hail storms are
more serious than the tornadoes in that they
about. One single storm in Nebraska for example
caused the loss of some three million dollars of
crops.

HAIL ALLEY

Did you ever hear of America's "Hail Alley"? Well neither did I - till just a short time ago. "Hail Alley". It's an area in the mid-west extending from southeastern Wyoming through Nebraska, and part of Colorado - all the way South east into western Kansas. It's an area which annually is the scene of more hailstorms - than in any other part of our country. A national Hail Research Experiment has been undertaken there, in an attempt to prevent so much heavy crop damage especially in Nebraska and Kansas where damage has been costing us anywhere from Two Hundred to Three Hundred Million a year. Hail storms even more serious than the tornadoes we hear so much about. One single storm in Nebraska, for example caused the loss of some three million bushels of wheat.

Agricultural scientists say this doesn't have to be! They point to southern Russia - where similar weather conditions exist; and where clouds are regularly seeded by anti-aircraft guns to prevent similar devastating hailstorms.

The Russians claim to have reduced hail damage - by eighty-five percent in some regions" - says the National Geographic. In fact we hear they even apologize - if hail falls in their seeded areas." All of which, if true, is one hail of an achievement.

SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE "HAIL ALLEY"

Thank you, Lowell. And with that - hail and farewell;

Pending a final item - in just a moment.

GENEVA

From the World Health Organization - with headquarters in Geneva - a report today dealing with ~~xxxx~~ cirrhosis of the liver - the so-called drinker's disease. The W H O noted that among the major nations of the world - that disease is most prevalent among wine-drinking Frenchmen. Its victims said to number thirty-five - per every one hundred thousand of the French population.

Next - Chile; then Austria - and Italy; with the U. S. a distant fifth; less than twelve cases of cirrhosis of the liver - per hundred thousand population. And tea-drinking Britain - came in last. Only two-point-eight - per hundred thousand.

As far as cities go, the worst in the world for this disease - the divided city of West Berlin. The rate there - running nearly a third higher than it does in France. All that tension - we are told - and all that beer.

So long until Monday.