

Friday, April 26, 1974
Reid Collins - sub.

WATERGATE

The latest in the Watergate case - from White House adviser Dean Burch; in a speech today - before a Washington meeting of top Republican leaders.

Dean Burch saying the President will respond "early next week" - to a subpoena issued by the House Judiciary Committee; at that time, presenting "a massive body of evidence" - to "supplant charges and allegations and innuendo." "And out of this factual record" - the whole story will emerge - the whole truth will be known" - said he. Adding: "I genuinely believe that the end of Watergate - will then be in sight."

CAMP DAVID FOLLOW WATERGATE

Meanwhile, President Nixon ^{was} traveling to Camp David

- presumably there to review the transcripts of a number of Watergate tapes. White House sources saying profanities and irrelevant remarks - have been eliminated. Insisting, however, the transcripts are "complete in their integrity" - and will absolve the President of any wrongdoing.

KISSINGER

Elsewhere in Washington - Henry Kissinger was meeting the press today - prior to departure for Geneva and then the Middle East. Dr. Kissinger saying the task that awaits him - is far more difficult than any before. Adding, however, with Russian help - he is hopeful that he can bring about a disengagement between Syria and Israel.

Dr. Kissinger also saying the U.S. is seeking a speedy agreement with Russia - on limiting multiple-warhead missiles; but not, as charged, for the purpose of giving President Nixon something to sign - when he goes to Moscow in June. The issues involved must be dealt with soon - said he - or "they can never be dealt with."

SAWHILL

Federal Energy Chief John Sawhill - was also holding a news conference today; noting a twenty-five per cent drop in the nation's highway death toll - in March. And that - you'll recall - the first full month of the new fifty-five mile-an-hour speed limit.

Sawhill also stressed the need - for additional energy conservation this summer; as, for example, using air conditioners - only when absolutely necessary; and then setting the thermostat - at seventy-eight degrees; at the same time - wearing more sport clothes and fewer neckties.

PHNOM PENH

At Phnom Penh - a wedding reception attended by Cambodia's Prime Minister Long Boret; in full sway - when someone hurled a hand grenade into the room. The blast that followed - killing five and wounding fifteen. But luckily - for Long Boret - he had left just a few minutes earlier.

NEW YORK

On the economic front - Franklin National Bank of New York today raised its prime interest rate - from ten-and-a-half to eleven per cent. Franklin Chairman Harold Cleason saying: "We might as well face reality - and get to the top as soon as possible." Adding that "pussy footing only prolongs the agony - of waiting for the decline."

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS

*More on the same - from White Sulphur Springs,
West Virginia; where Gerald Ford was addressing a meeting
- of top U.S. business leaders. The Vice President
calling inflation - "a worldwide disease:" much worse
than Watergate - "or even our energy problems"; one that
must be controlled - by whatever means necessary.
Inflation unchallenged" - said he - "is a major threat
to our free economy - and our form of government."*

CHAPIN

Former presidential appointments secretary

Dwight Chapin, convicted on two counts of perjury, lost a bid for a new trial today. Federal Judge Grehard Gesell rejected the bid, saying the evidence had been overwhelming. Chapin is to be sentenced next month.

GENERAL MOTORS

General Motors reported an eighty-five per cent drop in earnings the first quarter of this year and per share earnings of forty-one cents, the lowest for any first quarter since nineteen-forty-eight.

The energy crisis and lagging car sales was blamed.

WIRETAPS

A new record for bureaucratic brevity - was set today before a House Judiciary subcommittee. This at a hearing on nine bills - aimed at curbing legal wiretaps and electronic surveillance. The witness - Assistant Attorney General Henry Petersen; submitting a thirty-five page statement - but summing it all up in eleven words. "I can be very brief" - said he; "we oppose the bills - that's it."

BRANDT

West German Chancellor Willy Brandt was front and center before parliament today; to explain the presence of an East German spy in his circle of closest advisers.

Brandt says he had known for more than a year that his counter-agents were suspicious of Gruenther Guillaume, but it took that long to get the evidence for certain. So says Brant, he stayed with Guillaume and even took him on vacations while the police gathered the evidence.