

Thursday, April 19, 1973
Reid Collins

WATERGATE

In the government's official Watergate investigation - exit Richard Kleindienst. The U. S. Attorney General withdrawing from the probe - because, said he, it involves persons with whom he has "a close personal and professional relationship." Kleindienst turning over the case to William Petersen - the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Justice Department's Criminal Division. The latter to report now - directly to President Nixon.

Meanwhile, White House aide John Dean - finally breaking his long silence. In a statement issued to the press - saying: "Some may hope or think that I will become a scapegoat - in the Watergate case." Adding, however: "Anyone who believes this - does not know me, know the true facts, nor understand our system of justice."

Dean's statement - followed by an immediate White

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**House response. Press Secretary Ron Ziegler asserting ~~an~~
angrily: "The process now in motion - is not a process to
find a scapegoat but to find the truth."**

PENTAGON

*For the second time since the start of the Vietnam
cease-fire - a suspension of U.S. minesweeping operations
off the coast of North Vietnam. The announcement of
today's actions - coming from the Pentagon. Spokesman
Jerry Freedheim citing "continued cease-fire violations by
the other side - in South Vietnam and Laos;" also, charging
Hanoi with failing "to respect - the unilateral cease-fire
declared by the government of Cambodia."*

ROGERS FOLLOW PENTAGON

More on the same - from Secretary of State William Rogers; in his annual foreign policy statement - as delivered today to Congress. Rogers saying: "We look forward - to a more constructive relationship with North Vietnam. But neither this - nor economic assistance - will be possible" - said he - "unless the Vietnam agreement is fully carried out."

COMMERCE

From the U.S. Commerce Department comes today - some good news and some bad news.

First - the good news. The U.S. economy surging ahead during the first quarter of Nineteen-Seventy-Three - at its fastest pace in nearly twenty years. The nation's Gross National Product - increasing by more than fourteen per cent. In dollar totals - more than Forty Billion.

Now - the bad. The nation's rate of inflation during the same period - jumping an alarming six per cent; or nearly twice as high - as originally forecast.

All of this is said to provide the Nixon Administration - - with something of a dilemma; ~~as it tries to figure out~~ ^l How to cool off the current economic boom - without plunging the economy into a downspin.

CAPITOL HILL

On Capitol Hill - another attempt today to crack the Highway Trust Fund. The House voting on a measure - aimed at diverting ~~partly~~ ^{as much as} Seven Hundred Million-a-year into mass transit projects. But again - it was no go. The would-be trust-busters - failing by a vote of two-fifteen to one-ninety. Their third such defeat - ~~in less than~~ ^{in less than} four years.

~~Summary~~

SAFETY

From the National Highway Traffic Safety

Administration - an order today requiring so-called

"interlock systems" on all Nineteen-Seventy-four cars; which

means that said cars will not be able to move - until front-

seat/passengers have safely fastened lap-and-shoulder belts.

This to serve as an alternative to the air bag - which has

so far failed to live up to expectations.

URBAN

President Nixon sent to Congress today - the first of four expected revenue sharing proposals. This one calling for the distribution of Two-point-Three Billion - to cities and towns across the nation; which could then spend allocated funds - in the President's words - "as they desire, to meet their own community development."

The President ^{ed} adding that his new plan - "is intended to replace inflexible and fragmented categorical grant-in-aid programs;" also, "to reduce the excessive Federal control - that has been so frustrating to local government."

UNITED NATIONS

At the United Nations - an attempt today at a compromise. Britain and France joining together - in submitting a Security Council draft resolution; one that deplores all acts of violence in the Middle East - but specifically condemns that Israeli raid last week on Beirut. A vote on the British and French proposal - now set for tomorrow.

BUDAPEST

Palestinian guerilla leader Yasser Arafat - ~~is~~ the subject of an interview published today in Budapest. He's quoted as saying: "The Palestinian resistance movement - is facing a very grave situation." First - he continued - because "Washington has declared open war against it." And second - because "Israeli leaders, encouraged by this support - no longer care about their world image."

TEL AVIV FOLLOW BUDAPEST

Reverse side - from Tel Aviv. Israeli Chief of Staff General David Elazar - today predicting a "long war" with Arab guerillas on a worldwide battlefront. Adding, in effect: The guerillas can't win - but they simply refuse to quit.

General Elazar also said that "nobody will dictate the rules or methods or place" - of Israeli reprisals. This - said he - because the guerillas "play dirty - they attack civilians - plant bombs on innocent girls - attac^k ^(civilian) ~~civilian~~ aircraft - have no moral limitations."

PLANES

In the current issue of Business Week - just out - a story today dealing with pilotless planes. A Pentagon spokesman quoted as saying that robot planes - have already been used in Vietnam. Adding that they "appear ready now - to perform such missions as radar jamming, high-altitude photo reconnaissance, and strikes against ground and sea targets." The experts are further said to "foresee fleets of unmanned bombers, for example - by the end of this decade."

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE "JON LINDBERGH"

*And now - it's time again for Lowell Thomas. His
subject tonight - the son of the famed "Lone Eagle."*

Lowell...

JON LINDBERGH

L.T. Type Letter

Jon Lindbergh is having a year off from his deep sea diving. As you probably will recall this has been young Lindberghs occupation for some years. While his father specialized in flying, the son's life has moved in the opposite direction - the under sea.

Although as a deep sea diver he surely lives dangerously it was an automobile accident last year that made deep sea diving out of the question for a period of twelve months or so. During this time he is developing salmon farming techniques near his home in the Puget Sound area near Seattle. He also has been making a study of environmental problems - pollution. As he puts it -- the most serious problems are not the obvious ones, the local ones like oil spills which go way. He is much concerned regarding pesticide residue which takes years to develop and then we find a whole life species has disappeared along some coastal area.

For a time young Lindbergh lived at the bottom of the sea, at a depth of four hundred and thirty feet, in what is referred to as "the first under-sea habitat." He and a companion stayed down there for forty nine hours in a rubber tube the dimensions of which were seven feet by three feet.

Jon Lindbergh has tested new navy submarines, he helped recover that missing hydrogen bomb off the coast of Spain a couple of years ago, and he played a part in raising a sunken ~~sum~~ submarine from a depth of ten thousand feet.

SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE "JON LINDBERGH"

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

MOSCOW

Pepsi-Cola comes to Russia. The final arrangements - signed and sealed today in Moscow. The Pepsico firm - agreeing to build a new plant at Novorossisk on the Black Sea; there to turn out an initial annual production - of three million cases of Pepsi; in return for which the Russians will provide Pepsico - with half-a-million cases of vodka each year.

By the way, the achievement of today's pact - calling for toasts all around. But not with Pepsi - or vodka. Instead - Russian champagne.