

Tuesday, April 30, 1974

WHITE HOUSE

As he promised last night - President Nixon took his case directly to the people today; making public the edited transcripts - of thirty-one White House conversations; also, a fifty page "white paper" - attempting to show it was really John Dean who master-minded the Watergate coverup.

"Of all the witnesses who have testified publicly only Mr. Dean has accused the President of participation in such a coverup" - said the White House paper. Adding: "In fact, it was not until after April 30th, Nineteen-Seventy Three - when Dean was discharged - that he first charged the President with knowledge of a coverup." The White House further insisting that, indeed, "the President has nothing to hide."

As for the transcripts themselves - these include some passages which, as the President noted - might be

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interpreted "in drastically different ways." The White House stressing, however, "in all of the thousands of words spoken - even though they often are unclear and ambiguous - not once does it appear that the President of the United States - was engaged in a criminal plot to obstruct justice.

SIRICA

Federal Judge Sirica today refused to disqualify himself - from handling the cases of five upcoming Watergate defendants. The Judge denying that he had developed any "personal stake" in getting the five defendants convicted. Their "conjecture on this" said he "is wholly inappropriate."

ALEXANDRIA

Henry Kissinger flew today from Algiers to Alexandria - where he and his bride were warmly greeted by Egypt's Anwar Sadat. The latter telling Mrs. Kissinger: "You are among Henry's family here." The Kissingers and the Sadats then dining together - prior to the start of official talks.

VACAVILLE

In the Hearst kidnaping case - a public appeal today - from a self-proclaimed leader of the Symbionese liberation army; who is currently on "death row" at California's Vacaville prison. Clifford Jefferson urging the release of Patricia Hearst - unharmed by Friday to insure the distribution of four million more in food for the needy. The F B I in San Francisco also placing its agents on full alert; acting on the assumption the S L A will attempt something - prior to the Friday ~~deadline~~ deadline.

BARTLESVILLE

Phillips Petroleum of Bartlesville, Oklahoma today announced its first quarter earnings for the Nineteen Seventy Four; a figure two and half times as much - as the company's first quarter earnings last year.

WASHINGTON

In Washington - the House Ways and Means

*Committee today approved a new tax package, including
a three year phase-out of the present oil depletion allowance
- in combination with a new "wind-fall profits tax."*

SIMON FOLLOW BARTLESVILLE

Across Capitol Hill - the Senate today confirmed the nomination of William Simon as new Secretary of the Treasury. The former Energy chief perhaps the least controversial of the President's recent appointees, ^{getting} ~~Final~~ approval ~~coming~~ by voice vote - with no debate.

KEMPTEN

On the Leubas River at Kempten, West Germany construction was under way on a new super highway bridge. Dozens of workers were out on the middle span today when suddenly it collapsed with a roar; falling some forty feet - into the river valley below. First reports indicating at least nine dead and thirteen injured.

LISBON

The head of Portugal's formerly out-lawed Communist party - was allowed today to return to Lisbon after fourteen years in exile. Alvaro Cunhal quickly addressing a rally - of about five thousand wildly cheering supporters; calling for a union of all the political parties - previously banned in Portugal. United - said he - "we shall crush the last of fascism" in Portugal - "and create a free democratic society."

FIRE CRACKERS

From the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
- an order today banning the sale of fire crackers
nationwide - starting in June. The commission also
ordering stiff new safety rules - to cover the use of all
other fireworks; an effort to insure a safe and sane Fourth
of July - now and forever and forever - Bill.

HOUSTON

From Houston - the story of Samuel Sanchez; awaiting sentencing as an habitual criminal - when he wormed his way out of the local jail; slipping through an air conditioning duct - onto the roof of an adjoining court house; all but making good his escape - when he crashed through the ceiling of a court room where a trial was in progress.

Sanchez landing in the arms of a court bailiff.

So, right back in jail.