

Thursday, July 12, 1973

WATERGATE

In the latest on Watergate - Mahomet goes to the mountain. Chairman Sam Ervin of the Senate Watergate Committee - sending a letter to the White House today; also, placing a call - directly to the President; warning of, quote the very grave possibility - of a fundamental constitutional confrontation between the Congress and the Presidency." Therefore - asking to meet with the President. Said request - quickly granted. The time - to be announced.

The White House stressing, however - the President intends to discuss only "procedural matters." Deputy Press Secretary Gerald Warren saying: "The President's position is unchanged - and it will not be changed." Adding that the President has agreed to meet with Ervin - "as a courtesy."

Meanwhile, John Mitchell was winding up his testimony - before the full Committee. Maintaining throughout that he was convinced the President was blameless in either the

Watergate break-in or the subsequent cover-up; a contention - quickly bolstered by the next witness. White House special Counsel Richard Moore - telling of a meeting he attended March 20 of this year; a meeting ~~at~~ at which the President and then White House Counsel John Dean were also present. Moore saying "it seemed crystal clear to me" - the President had not been involved.

Moore also told of a conversation with Dean - later that same day. Dean reportedly saying - he had not yet told the President the whole truth. Moore adding that Dean called him at home that evening - and said that, quote, "He had decided that this was the moment to speak up!"

ATLANTA

More on Watergate - from Atlanta; where National Republican Chairman George Bush - was addressing a meeting of the Young Republican Federation.

Bush asserting that John Dean's testimony - was being put in perspective by former Attorney General Mitchell.

Also suggesting that future witnesses - would further tend to refute the former White House Counsel. "Let's see" - said he "how many people will stand up and say - John Dean speaks the truth."

Bush also urged the Watergate Committee - to wrap up its hearings as soon as possible; and thereby "end the speculation" - as to the President's whole role in the Watergate affair. "Let's get all the facts out" - said he; "let's get all the people up there - get the whole thing over with."

Bush adding that such an end - is of "major importance to this country" and, indeed, the entire world.

ATTORNEY

In a corridor outside the hearing room - there was a protest today from John Mitchell's Attorney. William Hundley claiming that the former Attorney-General - has been subjected to innuendo, speculation and hearsay. And this - said Hundley - will "so obviously affect any attempt to defend himself at a fair trial - that I don't think there is any way there can be one."

WHITE HOUSE

The White House again - a report today that the President is not devoting much time to what transpires at the Senate Watergate hearings. We are told he gets the testimony - via written summaries prepared by a member of his staff. L.B.J. used to sit and watch two or three TV sets at the same time. Mr Nixon evidently doesn't do that.

Deputy Press Secretary Warren explained to newsmen that "the President is working on a number of projects - the economy, a cabinet meeting" and so on. When Warren was asked about the President's mood, he replied - "good." When that apparently failed to suffice - Warren adding: "I don't think I can come out and give you his temperature every day."

GODLEY FOLLOW WHITE HOUSE

On another front - as you may have heard - the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has again been pecking away at the President's authority. The Senate panel yesterday rejecting the President's nomination of G. McMurtree Godley - as Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs. Committee Chairman J. William Fulbright claiming that Godley - as Ambassador to Laos - had been too closely identified with administration policy in Indo-China. Fulbright calling that policy - an "unmitigated failure."

Now - the White House response. Gerald Warren relaying the President's view - saying: "It is deplorable that this distinguished foreign officer - should be penalized for faithfully carrying out policies of his government." Adding that "the consequence of this action - go far beyond the injustice done to "one man alone. For it is simply "not in the interest of the foreign service of the U.S." - said he - "that career officers become subjects to retribution - for diligent execution of their instructions.

Secretary of State Rogers - also adding that
"a foreign service officer must be able to serve a President
- without being cited as a symbol by some Senators opposed
to Presidential policy."

MONTGOMERY

"Politics makes strange bedfellows!" You've heard that over and over ad nauseum. But, could there be stranger perhaps - than Senator Kennedy of Massachusetts and Governor George Wallace of Alabama? As you know they shared the same platform last week - at a Fourth of July celebration, in Alabama. This Kennedy-Wallace get together we are now told has been applauded by so called liberal Democrats. Then, today Governor Wallace's office reported the receipt of a flood of mail much "more unfavorable than favorable." This having to do with the Kennedy visit to Alabama. A Wallace aide saying the tabulation for one day alone - was two "for", and Ninety-Eight "against."

BELFAST

At Belfast in Northern Ireland - a giant parade today; once again commemorating the Protestant victory - in the famed battle of the Boyne nearly three hundred years ago.

When it was all over - police discovering the body of an unidentified man, in a small Catholic area in a heavily Protestant section. Victim number eight-hundred-forty-five - in nearly three years of civil strife. Strangled with barbed wire.

LIZ AND RICHARD

Well, the world can stop wobbling on its axis - Liz and Richard are going to patch things up.

Actress Elizabeth Taylor says she'll fly to Rome next week, to end their separation.

She told a reporter - we're not talking about divorce and there's absolutely no one else on either side.

Certainly, Miss Taylor was selective in her Hollywood escorts this trip. Bill - she spent some time with Donald Crisp, who is age Ninty-Five.

BEIRUT

The annual Miss Universe beauty competition - is currently in progress in Athens. The photographers there - taking a number of pictures, of course. One of these - a shot of several contestants; including Marcelle Herro - the reigning Miss Lebanon. When the picture was relayed back to Beirut today - there was an immediate of protest.

The newspaper Al Bayrak charging that Miss Herro had "committed a scandalous act - and should be recalled for questioning." The newspaper Al Anwark saying: "There must have been foreign pressure! For how else could Miss Herro possibly have allowed herself to be so trapped?" The cause of all this? Ah, in the picture Miss Lebanon was standing only two places - from Miss Israel."