

Thursday, July 26, 1973
Dallas Townsend

TAPES

Good evening. In the matter of President Nixon's disputed tapes - "the issue is joined" - as Senator Howard Baker put it. The President sending out a pair of letters today - nearly identical in tone; denying access to the tapes - to either the Senate Watergate Committee or Special Watergate Prosecutor Archibald Cox.

The President saying: "To the extent that I have custody of other documents that can properly be made public - I will be glad to make these available in response to specific requests." Adding, however: "I cannot and will not consent - to give any investigatory body private Presidential papers."

And so the start of legal maneuvers - that will doubtless lead eventually to the U.S. Supreme Court. The White House later saying: "The President fully expects his position - to be upheld." But either way - we are told -

TAPES - 2

*in this "as in any other matter - the President will "abide
by a definitive decision of the highest court."*

WATERGATE FOLLOW TAPES

The Watergate hearings continue - with John Ehrlichman again in the witness chair today. The President's former chief domestic affairs adviser - telling of a conversation with Nixon campaign treasurer Hugh Sloan Junior. This said to have occurred - only five days after the Watergate break-in. Sloan suggesting that he may have authorized the use of funds - that somehow financed the venture.

Ehrlichman went on to insist, however, that he had cut off Sloan - before the latter could tell him the full story. Ehrlichman saying: "It would have been grossly unfair of me to hear him out" - until Sloan had hired an attorney.

Ehrlichman also clashed with Senator Lowell Weicker of Connecticut - over the President's handling of the L. Patrick Gray case. Weicker noting that it was he - who was finally forced to blow the whistle on his old friend.

Ehrlichman observing: "The President notified the chief law enforcement officer - and you notified the newspapers; two

WATERGATE FOLLOW UP TAPES - 2

different approaches - to the same problem."

CAPE KENNEDY

At Cape Kennedy - almost unnoticed amidst all the Watergate furore - the countdown was proceeding today - toward Saturday's scheduled launch of America's second Skylab crew. Astronauts Alan Bean, Owen Garriott and Jack Lousma - arriving today to do their bit.

Mission Commander Bean saying: We've been training for two-and-a-half years - we're anxious to get up there."

LOS ANGELES

For the first time ever, a new emergency smog plan was put into effect today - in the Los Angeles area. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - urging Federal and State agencies to shut down; a move aimed at cutting back - on unnecessary travel. This coming in the third day - of the worst smog attack in Los Angeles this year.

UNITED NATIONS

At the United Nations - a U.S. veto today; only the fifth U.S. veto - in all U.N. history. U.S. Ambassador John Scali thus killing a Mideast resolution - newly-offered by eight non-aligned nations.

The resolution in question - calling for Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab lands. This - as a prelude to peace talks. Also, calling for recognition of, quote - "the rights and legitimate aspirations" of Palestinian refugees. In the U.S. view - simply "too one-sided."

ENVIRONMENT

Russell Train today was named to succeed William Ruckelshaus - as Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The White House also announcing that Ruckelshaus - will now become Deputy Attorney General; thereby succeeding Joseph Sneed - one of the President's law school professors - who was just named a Federal judge.

ANDREWS

For the Shah of Iran - currently a guest in the U.S. - a visit to Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland; where he personally inspected America's most advanced supersonic fighters - the F-Fourteen and the F-Fifteen.

The Shah was also given a demonstration - of the aircraft's flying capabilities; meeting later with Defense Secretary James Schlesinger - no doubt, to discuss a possible order.

LOVE

The President's new energy adviser - a witness today before the Senate Interior Committee. Former Colorado Governor John Love - discussing the gasoline shortage. Observing that the situation - has improved significantly. Adding: "I am encouraged by the current production - and I hope that these production levels can be maintained."

Love also discussing preliminary projections - on home heating fuels; which "seem to indicate" - said he - "that we will be able to meet fuel needs this winter." He stressed, however, that this will hold true - "if all goes well and we do not experience severe cold conditions." Otherwise - he continued - "we can expect some shortages."

DETROIT

In the auto industry contract talks just begun in Detroit - first, a set of union demands. Now - a set of counter-demands. General Motors demanding an end to official authorization for local strikes - or so-called "production standard" disputes." GM charging that such strikes - are often used to obtain concessions on other subjects; subjects which theoretically - are not strikeable.

From the United Auto Workers - as yet, no comment.

EMPORIA

*The death of one of America's great journalists -
and one of its best-read wartime authors - is reported
today from Emporia, Kansas.*

*William L. White - the son of the legendary William
Allen White; starting out on his father's famed Emporia
Gazette - at age fourteen; succeeding his father as editor
and publisher - when the latter died in Nineteen-Forty-Four.
Along the way - authorizing numerous books; among them -
"Journey for Margaret" - "They Were Expendable" - and
"Queens Die Proudly."*

*And now - the final entry. William L. White⁻⁻age
seventy-three.*

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE "ISLAND ~~OF~~ HAWAII"

*And now - it's time again for Lowell Thomas; with
report tonight - dealing with the volcanoes of Hawaii.*

Lowell...

###

Thank you Lowell - a final story in a moment.

ISLAND OF HAWAII

1.40

1 ext
n.b. → ad libet
the whole piece

The end of May ~~and~~ early June is a perfect time to visit the large island of Hawaii, the one with ~~the~~ all the live volcanoes, ..Kilauea... ^{Mauna} ~~Mona~~ Loa and the tallest one ^{Mauna} ~~Mona~~ Kea. ^{Mauna} ~~Mona~~ Kea has been dormant for a long time now, but who knows ~~when~~ when it will explode. Mona Kea as you may recall is from its base to its summit by far the loftiest mountain on the planet, a couple of thousand feet, exceeding Mt. Everest by a couple of thousand feet - that is from the floor of the ocean to its snowy peak.

The drive from Hilo to the volcano, to the national park is particularly beautiful at this season because the trees are bursting with red blooms, These are the ohia trees, and ~~the~~ at this time of the year they are literally covered with large bright lehua blossoms, the Hawaii state flower.

Although the huge crater of Kila^{Ma} ~~uea~~

largest active ~~area~~ crater in the world is sending forth many columns of steam ~~from its summit~~ at the moment there is no lava being hurled into the air.

There have been two spectacular ~~The last important~~ eruptions in this ~~so~~ area in recent times. There was the one in 1960 when a vast river of molten lava raced down the side of Mauna Loa into the sea not far from Hilo, causing the ocean to boil for a considerable distance beyond the shores. Lowell Jr. and his bride happened to be there at the time ~~and~~ and they gave the ~~world~~ world the first eye-witness account of the eruption there on the spot.

Only four years ago in 1969 there was another eruption. This time a curious thing happened. A ranger in his car was driving along a ~~new~~ road near the volcano. Suddenly a wide ~~crack~~ fissure opened in front of him. In it molten lava. Before he could turn his

car around and head back in the direction from which he had come there was another explosion ~~only a few~~ not many yards behind him and a second fissure opened. This time he and his car were trapped. Fortunately he had his usual ranger short wave equipment so he ~~radio~~ flashed the word to his colleagues of what had happened and within a comparatively short time a helicopter ~~dropped~~ dropped down and picked ~~him up~~ him ~~up~~ up. The car? Four years later it is still there. It wasn't a new model so they ~~and~~ decided to abandon it. At the time of the 1969 explosion mountains of fire and smoke and molten rock shot into the air to a height of some two thousand feet ^{quite near} ~~in~~ the area where the ranger had been trapped. But of course none of it fell on him. The eruption actually created another small cone to which they gave the name Maunaulu which means - growing mountain.

SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE "ISLAND OF HAWAII"

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

HOUSE

A new Two-point-Eight Billion-Dollar foreign aid bill - reached the floor of the House today. This - including a call for massive American assistance - to Indochina; to help repair the human and structural damage - left by a decade of war there.

The bill's supporters saying it thus embodies a fundamental change - in the U.S. foreign aid program; with monies to be allocated, henceforth, for humanitarian programs - such as nutrition and family planning; instead of big showy projects - such as dams and highways.

From the bill's opponents though - a somewhat different view. The new proposal - they said in a joint statement today - nothing more than a "rhetoric-wrapped package of bologna - cut into sections instead of sliced."

Dallas Townsend saying Good Night.