

Monday, July 23, 1973  
Dallas Townsend

WHITE HOUSE

Good evening. President Nixon says "no" - no to the Senate Watergate Committee - and no to Special Watergate Prosecutor Archibald Cox. The President refusing to provide either - with tapes of Presidential conversations dealing with the Watergate case.

The President explaining that he himself - had listened to some of the tapes. Observing that they were "entirely consistent with what I know to be the truth - and what I have stated to be the truth." Further noting that full disclosure might serve the public interest - if the tapes would settle the "central issues at hand;" except that such a disclosure - would constitute a clear violation of the "separation of powers."

In addition - the President continued - there are practical considerations. "As in any verbatim recording of informal conversations" - said he - "they contain

*comments that persons with different perspectives and motivations - would inevitably interpret in different ways."*

*"Even more important" - he went on - "the tapes could accurately be understood - only by reference to other documents or tapes," and thus would begin "an endless process of disclosure and explanation - of private Presidential records totally unrelated to Watergate."*

*"Accordingly" - said the President - "the tapes - which have been under my personal control - will remain so; none has been transcribed or made public - and none will be."*

*The President, nevertheless, repeating his pledge to discuss the Watergate matter publicly - "at an appropriate time during the hearings." But how or when - he didn't say.*

## REACTION FOLLOW WHITE HOUSE

*All of this - drawing speedy reaction - as might be expected.*

*Prosecutor Cox asserting that the President's refusal to free the tapes - was "without legal foundation." "It therefore becomes my duty" - said he - "promptly to seek subpoenas and other legal procedures - for obtaining the evidence for the grand jury." Cox's subpoena was handed late today to special White House Counsel J. Fred Buzhardt. The subpoena named Mr. Nixon.*

*The Watergate Committee - meeting briefly in executive session - also voting unanimously to subpoena the tapes; a decision announced jointly - by Committee Chairman Sam Ervin and Vice Chairman Howard Baker. Ervin accused the President of failing to provide moral leadership...and he described Watergate as the nation's greatest tragedy - surpassing the Civil War.*

*The battle lines for a Constitutional confrontation - now clearly drawn.*

## STRAWN FOLLOW REACTION

*The Watergate hearings continue - with Gordon*

*Strawn again in the hot-seat today. Much of his testimony - dealing with his one-time boss, former White House Chief of Staff H. R. Haldeman. Strawn saying that Haldeman knew a political intelligence operation was underway - at least ten weeks in advance of the Watergate break-in. Adding that Haldeman then ordered a purge of White House files - to make sure they were "clean."*

## ZURICH

*One of the great figures in the history of aviation - has died at Zurich, Switzerland.*

*Captain Eddie Rickenbacker - an early race-car driver who later became America's "Ace of Aces" in World War One. He then headed Eastern Airlines - helping to make it the second biggest carrier in all the world. Along the way, surviving twenty-four days in a lifeboat in the Pacific - during World War Two. Observing once that he had already cheated the grim reaper - at least seven times that he knew of.*

*And now - a fatal heart attack. Captain Eddie Rickenbacker - age eighty-two.*

## HI-JACKING

*The hijacked Japan Airlines Jumbo jet - with about one-hundred-forty people still aboard - took off from Dubai in the Arabian Peninsula late this afternoon. Cairo sources and a French radio broadcast say the plane has landed at Baghdad, Capital of Iraq, because of technical problems. This has not been confirmed. Before departing from Dubai, the hijackers permitted an elderly Japanese couple to leave the plane. All the other hostages - still aboard.*

**PAPEETE**

*The death toll in that Pan American jet crash off Tahiti - now set at seventy-eight. The lone survivor - we are told - a Canadian indentified as James Campbell."*

*The plane bound from Tahiti to Los Angeles - when it turned back with a shattered windshield. But why it then plunged into the sea - still a mystery.*

## NUCLEAR

*A French government spokesman today confirmed the first detonation - in France's latest nuclear test series.*

*Aymar Achille-Fould of the French Ministry of Armies making his announcement - following a flight from the nearby Mururoa Atoll test site. Saying "The test was carried out to the satisfaction of all;" just as the New Zealand protest Frigate Otago - had earlier reported.*

*Achille-Fould warned, however: "It is not wise to accord too much faith to reports given by the Otago - concerning the energy and power of the bomb." With regard to future tests - adding: "The position of the government is to be silent in such matters" - but "the hypothesis of others' tests is not excluded."*



**BELFAST**

*At Belfast in Northern Ireland--"Operation Sealed City;" with eight thousand British soldiers--patrolling the streets; bringing a <sup>temporary</sup> ~~virtual~~ halt--to more than three years of violence there.*

## TRIPOLI-BENGHAZI-CAIRO

*Thousands of Libyans staged protest demonstrations today - in the streets of Tripoli and Benghazi; demanding that Colonel Moammar Khadafy withdraw his resignation - as head of the Libyan military government.*

*In Cairo - Egypt's President Sadat was also urging Khadafy - to remain in office. Sadat refused, however, to yield on the issue - that prompted Khadafy's resignation; refusing to agree to an immediate merger - between Libya and Egypt. Some hours later, though, Kadafy withdrew his resignation, as many had expected.*

FATHER ROSS

**SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE "FATHER ROSS"**

*And now it's time for Lowell Thomas - with another  
tale from Stone Age New Guinea. Lowell....*

## FATHER ROSS

*One of the most dedicated, the most courageous men I ever met - impressive too with his long white beard - Father William Ross of New Guinea, a member of the Divine Word missionary order - missionary among Cannibals.*

*Father Ross was first assigned to "the land that time forgot" - way back in Nineteen-Twenty-Nine; helping to open up the Central Highlands of New Guinea - where Stone Age cannibalism was then a way of life; and in many places - still is.*

*During the early period of his ministry - Father Ross always kept his right hand inside his cassock. He was holding a gun - just in case. But he spread the Gospel with such compassion - along with medical and economic aid - that he was soon recognized as a friend and spiritual guide. His "congregation" in recent years - totaling more than a quarter of a million ex-headhunters. But, not all ex!*

*Father Ross also had a most unusual hobby. By means of short wave radio - keeping close track of major league*

baseball here in the U.S. There in the jungle - in the midst of Stone Age cannibals - he could go on and on quoting team standings, batting averages, pitching records and so on. It was his way of pretending, I guess - he was still keeping in touch with his homeland.

The Reverend Father William Ross - of The Divine Word order.

**SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE "FATHER ROSS"**

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

ADVICE

*A final note - on the Watergate affair: which today has been commanding the attention of almost everyone. Witness Gordon Strawn undergoing cross-examination by Senator Montoya of New Mexico. "Many young people are writing to us - and to the committee told Montoya - expressing consternation" - "they are greatly disturbed" - he continued. Adding: "What advice would you have for these young people?"*

*Strawn replying: "It may not be the type of advice - that you could look back and want to give;" but "my advice" - said Gordon Strawn - "would be to stay away."*

*Dallas Townsend saying Good Night.*