

Tuesday, May 22, 1973
KNX - Los Angeles

WHITE HOUSE-FOLLOW-CAULFIELD

President Nixon late today issued a statement saying:

"There were apparently wide-ranging efforts to limit the Watergate investigation; or to conceal the possible involvement of members of the Administration" - and those who worked in the re-election campaign. Adding that such efforts - were "unethical as well as illegal." Also saying: "To the extent that I may in any way have contributed to the climate in which they took place - I did not intend to; to the extent that I failed to prevent them - I should have been more vigilant."

The President went on to stress, however - at no time did he have prior knowledge of the Watergate burglary; at no time was he aware of subsequent efforts to cover it up - until he undertook an investigation of his own; and at no time did he authorize clemency for defendants - or authorize anyone to raise money for them.

CAULFIELD

As a witness today former White House aide John Caulfield confirmed McCord's previous testimony that he - Caulfield - had extended offers of executive clemency - from, quote, the highest level of the White House." Caulfield insisted, however, that said offers - really came from one-time White House Counsel John Dean. Adding that he only presumed they originated with John Erlichman - who was then the President's chief domestic affairs adviser.

Caulfield going on to say: "At no time, either before or after meeting with Mister Dean - did I ever speak to any other White House officials about this offer of executive clemency." "I specifically never spoke to the President of the United States"- he continued - "and have no knowledge of my own - as to whether he endorsed this offer or indeed whether anyone had ever discussed it with him."

SENATE

Also we hear an attempt was made to put Watergate in perspective with witness James McCord - explaining his motivation.

The convicted Watergate conspirator was recalling the political climate at the start of the Seventy-Two campaign. This marked by a series of bombings - at the Capitol, the Pentagon, the campaign office of Senator Tower of Texas and a number of local Republican headquarters. "Already in February of Seventy-Two - said he - "there was a pattern of bombing" at GOP re-election offices.

McCord also spoke of "numerous threats in writing and by phone" - against former Attorney General John Mitchell and his wife, Martha; allegedly made around the same time as the attempted assassination of Alabama Governor George Wallace. One of these calls was said to have come through an unlisted number, with the result - that Mrs. Mitchell was "greatly upset."

McCord was further telling of at least three instances

of alleged wiretapping - at Nixon Re-Election headquarters in New York. In the first of these cases - said he - "there appeared to be no doubt - that it was an illegal interception of conversation."

Another mitigating factor - he continued - was the threat of possible violence at the Republican National Convention; as publicly voiced - by the Vietnam Veterans Against The War and other groups. McCord saying:
"Uppermost in everyone's mind - and certainly in my mind" - was the wish to prevent bloodshed such as occurred "at the Nineteen-Sixty-Eight Democratic National Convention."

"I have no indication whatever" - he went on - "that Larry O'Brien or Senator McGovern had any knowledge or any part in such" threats: "Just to the contrary - I was completely convinced that they did not." "But I was not so sure" - said he - "that without their knowledge their staff members might be working behind their backs - to quietly encourage such groups as the Vietnam Veterans Against the

War."

McCord also disclosing one of the apparent reasons - for the presence of a number of Cuban refugees in the Watergate bugging crew; a report that money from Castro Cuba was being funneled into the McGovern campaign.

All of this was clearly no excuse for the Watergate break-in - as Senator Baker of Tennessee was quick to note. But it does offer an explanation - for what has seemed up to now to have been so unnecessary and senseless.

NEW YORK
PARIS

In Paris - a record six and a quarter hour meeting today - between White House adviser Henry Kissinger and Hanoi's Le Duc Tho. At the end of which - Dr. Kissinger saying: "I have nothing to say," - except "we will meet again tomorrow."

However, a North Vietnamese official later reporting that Dr. Kissinger's chief assistant - William Sullivan - was leaving tonight for Saigon. Purpose - not disclosed. The French press, nevertheless, is speculating that Doctor Kissinger and Le Duc Tho - may be nearing the completion of a new peace agreement.

NEW YORK

With another Father's Day just a few weeks off we hear - it's time again for the selection of America's "Father of the Year." One year long ago - I was one of the group, similar to this year's crop of seven announced today at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York. Today those included were: Former POW Howard Rutledge - sportcaster Howard Cosell - actor Jack Albertson - TV star Redd Foxx - singer Julius LaRosa - baseball's Hall of Famer Monte Irvin - and Miami Dolphins' quarterback Bob Griese,

ROANOKE

A story rustling "modern style" - is reported from Roanoke, Virginia. Witnesses telling of seeing some cowpoke - invading the Roanoke livestock market; allegedly picking up - a small pony; loading the two-foot high critter into the backseat of his small hatchback car. And away he went no one knows where.

Wonder if the car was a mustang? No. Probably a Pinto.

CHICAGO

This next - from Chicago; the headquarters of Playboy Magazine - which has just filed suit against Playgirl, a recent publication for woman. Playboy accusing Playgirl - of infringing on its trade-mark.

Observers indicating, however - an out of court settlement may be in the works. If so, Bill - what would that then make them?

COLUMBUS

Columbus, Ohio - a meeting of Ohio truckers today heard an address from H. Dillon Winship of the American Trucking Association, an address dealing with what he called the current "anti-motor vehicle, pro-mass-transit-syndrome!"

"Whenever someone talks about the glories of mass transit" - said Winship - "the rights of the individual person who may prefer to drive his automobile - are completely ignored." Indeed, "group madness - has infected virtually every nook and cranny of our lives" - he continued; to the point where the motor vehicle - is considered "some kind of awful monster."

Winship then went on to say, however: "The record clearly shows rapid rail transit systems - are not the answer to problems of urban congestion." And this will continue to be true - said he - "no matter how hard the 'new thinkers' try to hide it."

So - what is the answer?