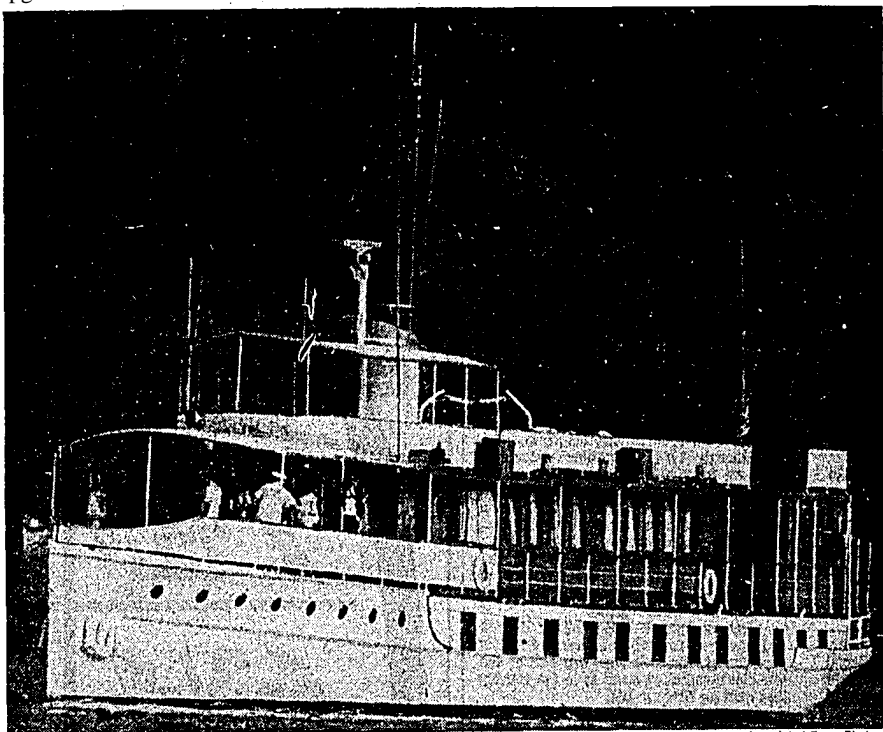


Nixons Go For Cruise On Yacht

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PRESIDENTIAL YACHT SEQUOIA RETURNS TO PORT AFTER POTOMAC CRUISE
President Nixon and Family Took Outing After Tapes Announcement Earlier Monday

Associated Press Photo

Nixons Go For Cruise On Yacht

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Nixon, accompanied by his family, went for a late-afternoon cruise on the Potomac River Monday, an hour after he made his latest Watergate disclosure.

Deputy Press Secretary Gerald L. Warren disclosed the dinner cruise on the yacht, Sequoia, by the President accompanied by the First Lady, daughters Tricia Cox and Julie Eisenhower and son-in-law David Eisenhower.

The party boarded the boat at about 5:30 p.m. EDT, about an hour earlier than the time the dinner cruises usually begin.

They left the White House barely an hour after Nixon had issued a written statement and released three partial transcripts of tape recordings he said show that he discussed ways of limiting public exposure of the involvement in the Watergate break-in of persons connected with his re-election campaign.

Nixon Had Little Alternative

By LESLEY O'ELSNER

WASHINGTON (NYT) — President Nixon said a great deal to the nation in his two-page statement Monday afternoon.

He said that he was indeed aware immediately after the Watergate break-in of the "advantages" of concealing the Nixon connections of the Watergate burglars and that he had given "erroneous" information to the House Judiciary Committee.

But for all the potential impact of these concessions, the significance of the President's statement may lie, even more, in what he did not say.

For days the capital has buzzed with talk of a new Nixon strategy, with debate over whether he might temporarily step aside or even resign, as Sen. Robert P. Griffin, the Republican whip, suggested Monday morning.

But the admittedly damaging tape transcripts released by Nixon have plunged him into even deeper trouble not only with his critics, but more importantly, with the men who went to great lengths to support him.

So there were two questions, really, after Nixon delivered his surprise — first, what the day's move meant and what prompted it and second, what moves would follow.

The first question seemed the easier, for all that Nixon appeared to be doing, in terms of strategy, was to deal with a specific problem. The problem was that his submission of "erroneous" information was probably about to be discovered.

Given the circumstances, Nixon appeared to have had little real alternative to the action he took.

The president's statement itself tells the story. It notes that there are tapes in existence of his conversations with H. R. Haldeman, his former chief of staff, on June 23, and that those tapes record his own comments about the political advantages of concealing the backgrounds of the Watergate burglars.

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It notes that Nixon chose not to tell either the committee or his own staff, including James D. St. Clair, his chief defense lawyer, of these tapes, and the obvious fact that they tended to contradict some of his prior statements.

And then, in its most telling portions, the statement notes that these are among the tapes that Nixon is handing over to federal Judge John J. Sirica is directed by the recent Supreme Court ruling upholding the special Watergate prosecution subpoenas.

The statement does not make the point directly, but the implication is obvious: unless Nixon decided against turning the tapes over to the judge — and thus defied the Supreme Court — the information on the tapes would become public sooner or later.

If the information leaked out, the effect on Nixon's trial could be disastrous.

The chronology also suggests another factor: St. Clair.

Last week, Sirica directed St. Clair to oversee the turnover to the court of the subpoenaed tapes; St. Clair thus became responsible for knowing what was on them.

It is likely that if Nixon had not disclosed the information, St. Clair, once he obtained it, would have felt compelled to do so. He was the one, after all, who presented to the House the Nixon information that the President described as "incomplete and in some respects erroneous."

Nixon may of course, have hoped to accomplish something else as well — to take the headlines away from Monday's calls for resignation, for instance, and perhaps to take advantage of the common tendency of people to sympathize with a man who owns up to his mistakes.

Yet he could not erase the question raised

by the calls for resignation — first by Griffin, and later, by Rep. Charles Wiggins, the California Republican, who had been his chief defender on the House Judiciary Committee.

The White House said that Nixon would not resign, but rightly or wrongly, such statements have been given little credence in Washington since vice President Agnew resigned only days after insisting that he would stay in office.

Resignation would have some obvious advantages for Nixon. It would allow him to retain his pension and the various other financial benefits that would be denied him if he were convicted by the Senate. It would allow him a far more graceful way out of office than the ignominy of conviction in the Senate.

On the other hand, it would cost him the chance he has now, however slender it may be, of beating conviction and retaining office. And it would also be risky; a straight resignation, without any kind of arrangement such as that worked out by Agnew, might lead to his prosecution on criminal charges.

The grand jury that indicted the defendants in the Watergate cover-up named Nixon as an unindicted co-conspirator; it did so, apparently, because it had wanted to indict him but was told by the prosecutors that it was not clear whether it was legally possible to indict an incumbent President.

If Nixon were out of office, the legal problem would no longer exist.

There are a variety of ways, conceivably at least, by which Nixon could make an arrangement under which he would resign from office and save the nation the agony of a Senate trial in return for immunity from further prosecution.

He could make an agreement with the special prosecutor. He could reach an understanding with Vice President Ford, in which Ford, upon assuming the presidency at Nixon's resignation, could pardon him. Or, Congress could pass a law granting immunity — though because of the late date, this seems somewhat improbable.



PRESIDENTIAL LAWYER JAMES ST. CLAIR LEAVES CAPITOL MONDAY Met Earlier With Congressmen and Senators on Watergate

Text of Edited Tapes Of President's Talks

Continued From Page 12-A

led back into areas that would be harmful to the CIA and harmful to the government (unintelligible) didn't have anything to do (unintelligible). (Telephone)

P: Chuck? I wonder if you would give John Connally a call. He's on his trip — I don't want him to read it in the paper before Monday about this quota thing and say — look, we're going to do this, but that I checked, I asked you about the situation (unintelligible) had an understanding it was only temporary and ah (unintelligible) O.K.? I just don't want him to read it in the papers. Good. Fine.

H: (Unintelligible) I think Helms did no — (unintelligible) said, I've had no —

P: God (unintelligible).

H: Gray called and said, yesterday, and said that he thought —

P: Who did? Gray?

H: Gray called Helms and said I think we've run right into the middle of a CIA covert operation.

P: Gray said that?

H: Yeah. And (unintelligible) said nothing we've done at this point and ah (unintelligible) says well it sure looks to me like it is (unintelligible) and ah, that was the end of that conversation (unintelligible) the problem is it tracks back to the Bay of Pigs and it tracks back to some other the leads run out to people who had no involvement in this, except by contracts and connection, but it gets to areas that are liable to be realized? The whole problem (unintelligible) Hunt. So at that point he kind of got the picture. He said, he said we'll be very happy to be helpful (unintelligible) handle anything you want. I would like to know the reason for being helpful, and I made it clear to him he wasn't going to get explicit (unintelligible) generally, and he said fine. And Walters (unintelligible) Walters is going to make a call to Gray. That's the way we put it and that's the way it was left.

P: How does that work through, how, they've got to (unintelligible) somebody from the Miami bank.

H: (Unintelligible). The point John makes — the bureau is going on this because they don't know what they are uncovering (unintelligible) continue to pursue it. They don't need to because they already have their case as far as the charges against these men (unintelligible) and ah, as they pursue it (unintelligible) exactly, but we didn't in any way say we (unintelligible). One thing Helms did raise. He said, Gray — he asked Gray why they thought they had run into a CIA thing and Gray said because of the characters involved and the amount of money involved, a

lot of dough. (unintelligible) and ah, (unintelligible)

P: (Unintelligible)

H: Well, I think they will.

P: If it runs (unintelligible) what the hell who knows (unintelligible) contributed CIA.

H: Ya, it's money CIA gets money (unintelligible) I mean their money moves in a lot of different ways, too.

P: Ya. How are (unintelligible) — a lot of good —

H: (Unintelligible)

P: Well you remember what the SOB did on my book? When I brought out the fact, you know —

H: Ya.

P: That he knew all about Dulles? (Expletive Deleted) Dulles knew. Dulles told me. I know, I mean (unintelligible) had the telephone call. Remember, I had a call put in — Dulles just blandly said and knew why.

H: Ya

P: Now, what the hell! Who told him to do it? The President? (Unintelligible)

H: Dulles was no more Kennedy's man than (unintelligible) was your man (unintelligible)

P: (unintelligible) covert operation — do anything else (unintelligible)

H: The Democratic nominee, we're going to have to brief him.

P: Yes sir. Brief him (unintelligible). We don't (unintelligible).

H: Oh no. Tell him what we want him to know. I don't think you ought to brief him.

P: Me? Oh hell no!

H: (unintelligible) you would have been if Johnson called you in —

P: Johnson was out of office.

H: That's the point — he was.

P: Eisenhower, Eisenhower did not brief Kennedy.

H: And wouldn't be proper anyway (unintelligible) because you're too (unintelligible).

P: (unintelligible) same thing that Eisenhower did. Course Eisenhower (unintelligible)

Phone rings.

P: Ya. Ah, I'll call him tomorrow.

H: (Unintelligible) sure, that you want to.

P: No, I just simply think that we provide for (unintelligible) from the appropriate authorities (unintelligible) of course not, and I don't think we ought to let Kissinger brief — I'd just have Helms (unintelligible).

H: Before the public eye — the focus of attention is on the negatives of the administration. It's an interesting point, Buchanan, in response to the response to his attack —

H: Argues quite strongly

that the point that the attacks should always turn to the positive side. He argues that that is wrong, and the attacks should stay on the negative side. Do not try to weave in a lot of positive points. That there should be an attack program that is purely attack.

P: Except on foreign policy.

H: That's what he is talking about primarily. You hammer your strong point.

P: I just think you've got to hit that over and over again. We gotta win —

H: You don't argue against our hammering our strong point. His argument is when you are attacking — we should do some of our advertising should be an attack on McGovern advertising — and that attack should not (unintelligible) Nixon strongpoints. It should only (unintelligible) McGovern negative points.

P: Ya.

H: His argument is to start with, you got 40 per cent of the people who will vote for you no matter what happens.

P: I agree.

H: And you got 40 per cent of the people that will vote against you no matter what happens, so you got 20 per cent of the vote left in the middle who may vote for you or may not — and that 20 per cent is what you gotta work on. His argument is that you're so well known, your pluses are as clear as your minuses; that getting one of those 20, who is an undecided type, to vote for you on the basis of your positive points is much less likely than getting him to vote against McGovern by scaring him to death about McGovern; and that that's the area that we ought to be playing.

P: Well.

H: (Unintelligible)

P: Well, I am not going to do it. I really want you to bring in Flanagan and all these others (unintelligible) and lay it to them (unintelligible)

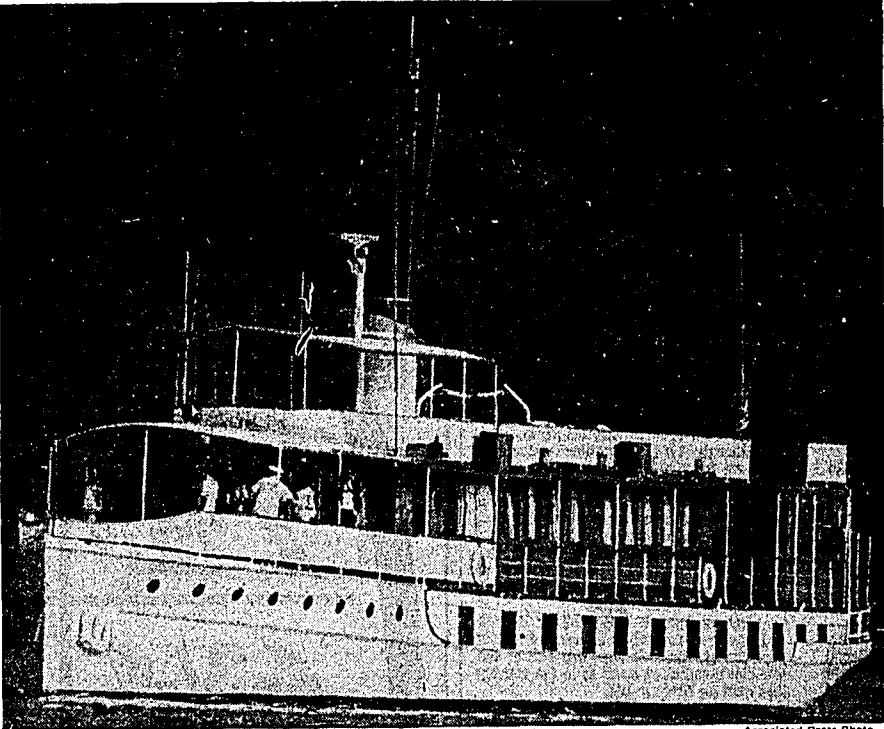
H: Yep.

P: Don't you think he'll agree? Oh, you don't?

H: No, I think they will. They'll agree for awhile (unintelligible) agree — they'll say well why not do it anyway.

P: No, No, Nope, No — Never! I can't take it for granted. Listen, he could think I'm setting him up (unintelligible) reasonable man. God damn it, (unintelligible) I have him be against Muskie. We don't give a (expletive deleted). Or, Nixon! Muskie — screw him otherwise — fine. I don't know if our people would be scared (unintelligible) about Muskie.

H: (Unintelligible) they are. They aren't, but I think you got to build that up. His point is that so little is known, better chance of (voice fade).



PRESIDENTIAL YACHT SEQUOIA RETURNS TO PORT AFTER POTOMAC CRUISE President Nixon and Family Took Outing After Tapes Announcement Earlier Monday

FAMILY DINES

Nixons Go For Cruise On Yacht

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Nixon, accompanied by his family, went for a late-afternoon cruise on the Potomac River Monday, an hour after he made his latest Watergate disclosure.

Deputy Press Secretary Gerald L. Warren disclosed the dinner cruise on the yacht, Sequoia, by the President accompanied by the First Lady, daughters Tricia Cox and Julie Eisenhower and son-in-law David Eisenhower.

The party boarded the boat at about 5:30 p.m. EDT, about an hour earlier than the time the dinner cruises usually begin.

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Wiggins

committee," he said. "I certainly shall consider it."

Rep. James R. Mann, D-S.C., a Judiciary Committee member who voted for the impeachment resolution, said Nixon's concession that impeachment by the House is virtually a foregone conclusion "might make it easier for some members of the House to vote for it."

The Senate Republican leadership issued a one-sentence statement saying: "The President took the proper action in releasing additional information prior to the House vote."

GOP Leader Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania refused to answer any questions on the matter. Sen. Griffin said the White House lawyers told him the President's decision to remain in office is "irrevocable." Griffin, who earlier in the day called on Nixon to resign in the best interest of the nation, said "naturally I'm disappointed."

Sen. William Brock of Tennessee, chairman of the Senate Republican Campaign Committee, said "I think it's evident that the President's defense is going to be more difficult in the House. This has damaged the President's case."

Sen. Robert Dole of Kansas, who was chairman of the Republican National Committee during the 1972 election, said "I assume resignation is an option the President is considering."

Senate Democratic Whip Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia, asked whether Nixon's action "sounds like the last move of a desperate man," replied "it does... I'm a little speechless."

House Speaker Carl Albert, D-Okla., said of Nixon's statement: "The most devastating thing you could say about it is that it speaks for itself." Asked about Nixon's statement that impeachment is a foregone conclusion, Albert said: "Far be it for me to argue with the President."

House Democratic Leader Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. of Massachusetts commented: "All I can say is at this stage confession is good for the soul." He added Nixon's statement could not save him. "A tidal wave is about to strike the House so far as impeachment goes... you wonder if he will have a handful to support him," he said.

Rep. Barber Conable, a New York, chairman of the Republican Policy Committee, said he was appalled by Nixon's statement and that it would have a devastating effect on Congress. He said he would interpret the President's statement as admitting guilt. "It looks like a 'smoking gun' to me," Conable said, using the term for hard and fast evidence of wrongdoing.

On the issue of possible resignation, Sen. Robert T. Stafford, R-Vt., said that although he believes the constitutional provisions of impeachment should continue, resignation might be in Nixon's best interests.

Stafford said this is especially true because conviction by the Senate might cost the President rights to all his government pensions.

Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., said, "If I were in his shoes and I thought I were innocent I'd fight it out to the last."

Sen. Frank E. Moss, D-Utah, said he believes a any talk of resignation is premature. However, he said Nixon should resign if he is impeached by an overwhelming vote of the House.

"I have said from the first that if the President is guilty, he should resign," said Assistant Democratic Senate leader Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia. "But if he is not, it would set a very bad precedent for the future," Byrd said and added:

"I feel that resignation would leave a very polarized feeling in this country that the President had been hounded out of office by his enemies, by the media and by his detractors in Congress. And that would be very bad for the country."

Meanwhile Monday, the Senate Rules Committee met in closed session to hear proposals for overhauling the rules of an impeachment trial.

Chairman Howard W. Cannon, D-Nev., said most of those testifying believe the impeachment rules which served for the trial of President Andrew Johnson in 1868 should be allowed to stand without major change.

Cannon also said consensus now exists that gavel-to-gavel television coverage of such a trial should be allowed.