

## Inside Report

## Haldeman's secret mission

The potentially disastrous decision by President Nixon assigning H. R. (Bob) Haldeman to review a crucial tape stemmed from a compelling desire to shield from public view dirty political talk in the Oval Office.

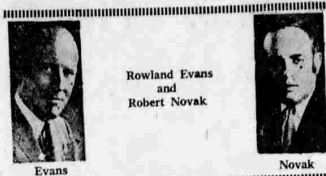
Mr. Nixon did not want anybody new to hear the tape recording of shockingly blunt political conversation in his Sept. 15 meeting with Haldeman, then White House chief of staff, and John W. Dean III, then White House counsel. Safe in the knowledge that nobody else knew about the tape, Mr. Nixon early in July called on private citizen Haldeman to secretly listen to the tape and report back to him.

That decision, made by Mr. Nixon with little if any staff assistance long before the tapes became the focus of major constitutional confrontation, might well have catastrophic political repercussions. Unwittingly, President gave the impression that only his old confidant could be trusted to hear the tapes. He has thus eroded his deteriorating relations both with the Senate Watergate Committee and Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox.

The otherwise inexplicable handling of the White House tapes becomes understandable only in terms of the existing relationship between Haldeman and Nixon, which was absolutely secret until recently revealed July 18. Mr. Nixon apparently regarded the tapes as devices to refresh his memory rather than potential evidence in the courts.

On the tapes  
To that basis in April, he asked Haldeman to review the powerful chief of staff to review the tape of the President's March 21 meeting with Dean. But senior aides at the White House insist that no tapes were audited in preparing the President's much criticized May 22 Watergate statement.

The President has informed aides that he went to his still secret recordings after the Washington Post-June 17 reported Dean's statements to investigators about meetings with



Rowland Evans  
and  
Robert Novak

the President. To check information that he thought absolutely incorrect, Mr. Nixon informed his advisers, he secretly listened to recordings prior to Dean's Senate testimony.

But the tape that apparently worried the President the most was the recording of his Sept. 15 conversation with Dean and Haldeman. Dean's testimony interpreted Mr. Nixon as being well aware at that meeting of the Watergate cover-up. But there was much else said in the Oval Office that day, not related to Watergate, which Mr. Nixon felt could only damage the presidency.

By all accounts, Mr. Nixon and Haldeman engaged in a back-and-forth discussion of the seamy side of politics which the public does not generally associate with the presidency. Mr. Nixon apparently used Haldeman to look into the records of Sen. George McGovern and other politicians, using military records and income tax returns.

Thus did Mr. Nixon want to refresh his memory about the Sept. 15 meeting without revealing the contents to anybody else. Why he did not listen to the tape himself is not clear. Instead, he assigned ex-aide Haldeman to listen (apparently at Haldeman's present home at Newport Beach, Calif., near the presidential estate at San Clemente).

With the existence of the tape still secret, the President apparently never planned to reveal Haldeman's secret mission.

It was clearly Mr. Nixon's personal decision. Two senior

aides now sitting in at Watergate decision-making first learned of Haldeman's audit along with the rest of the world Monday evening. A third senior aide did know about it, but only well aware that the door had been down. Even those White House staffers lusting after a refutation of a credible device than Haldeman's testimony.

What is becoming clear is that the differences between Dean and the President over both the March 21 and Sept. 15 meetings involve not so much the actual words as their context and interpretation. As a result, old Nixon loyalist Haldeman as a principal in the case with a deep-seated personal interest in refuting Dean is scarcely an evenhanded interpreter.

Moreover, Haldeman's mission tends to undercut the later pledge to Cox by White House counsel Fred Buzhardt that the tapes were kept in absolute security by the President. Similarly, after recovering from their early shock last Monday night, several members of the Ervin Committee were expressing outrage.

Before Haldeman's revelation, the White House seemed to be moving toward some compromise which would give Cox, though not the Ervin Committee, private access to the tapes to sort out what direction the Watergate rather than wait for an ultimate Supreme Court decision ordering release of the tapes. Haldeman's bombshell, while making such a deal any easier, does not decrease the need for it.

BY BILL RHODES WEAVER  
Daily News Staff Writer

Early next year the Guilford County Ambulance Service is expected to have a portable heart treatment system in operation.

Dr. E. Joseph LeBauer, immediate past president of the Greensboro Heart Association, said Tuesday he feels confident that the system will soon receive the endorsement of the Guilford County Medical Society and the Greensboro Academy of Medicine.

"Already we have the endorsement of the heart specialists in Greensboro and High Point, but we feel it is advisable to receive the support of physicians in the two medical groups," Dr. LeBauer said.

The portable unit, which will be operated under the direct supervision of doctors in emergency rooms of the Greensboro and High Point hospitals, are being provided through a \$62,000 allocation in the 1973-74 budget of the Guilford County Board of Commissioners for equipment and personnel training.

THE BUDGET will permit the purchase of six units, two to be used in ambulances in the High Point branch and four in ambulances serving Greensboro and rural areas in the southern, eastern and northern parts of the county.

Robert Moser, assistant director of the county ambulance service, said Guilford will be the only county in the state to offer the service. It is considered a distinction in the eastern part of the nation since he knows of only three other similar mobile coronary units in the country—Ft. Lauderdale, Ohio, and Dallas, Texas.

Dr. LeBauer said his committee is drafting its proposal for the purchase of the portable unit. It will outline the training, which will be under the professional medical committee, which will make such a deal any easier, does not decrease the need for it.

"Such units have proved to reduce hospital deaths by 50 percent," Dr. LeBauer said. "About half the people die outside the hospital. With this unit, the time is reduced."

"But this also requires public education and understanding. A person calls his doctor and the ambulance when a suspected heart attack has taken place, even though it may develop to be indigestion or an ulcer diagnosis and treatment can start early and save valuable time and lives."

WHEN JAMES FINSON, the ambulance service director, asked county commissioners for the heart treatment unit, he emphasized that the ambulance personnel wouldn't begin using the equipment until after they had undergone an eight-hour training period.

Members of the ambulance service will spend 40 to 60 hours each in textbook training and similar period with doctors, heart specialists, in emergency rooms in Moses Cone, L. Richardson Memorial and Long hospitals in Greensboro and High Point Memorial Hospital.

When the training is completed, the equipment, a portable defibrillator and monitor, is installed in the ambulances and available to be taken to the bedside of a heart patient. The promoters of the special service will have 21 personnel equipped

to operate the equipment. Moser said, "We will use the two-way radios we have with connections right into the hospital emergency rooms, describe the condition of the patient and receive from the doctors detailed instructions on what to do to treat the hospital."

INCIDENTALLY, Moser said, the two-way radios already have saved many lives in the two years they have been in operation. "They are very important, and, of course, we couldn't have this portable heart equipment without having the radios."

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It is the training in the use of intravenous injections, which are useful in burns and shock cases in restoring more normal levels in body fluid and respiration.

Moser said he is hopeful the training program, part of which is expected to be held at Guilford Technical Institute, can be started about Oct. 1 and that the actual heart lifesaving units can be in operation about Feb. 1.

County Manager John Witherston said the new service could be valuable addition to the ambulance service, which has achieved strong public support since it was taken over by the county four years ago.

## Aid Musicians Involved In Accident

## 4 Soul Bands To Give Benefit Tonight

Four of Greensboro's soul bands will join forces tonight for a benefit concert at the Cosmos Club on East Market Street.

The Black Explosion, the Versatile Gents and their backup band, TNT, and the Fabulous Jabbers, Chocolate Funk and the Majors will perform for one-hour each starting at 9 p.m.

All proceeds from the concert

will go to aid the Superior Band of Winston-Salem. The Superior Band was involved in an automobile accident on Interstate 40 July 22.

The band was traveling from Winston-Salem to Fayetteville for an appearance when the van they were riding in went out of control and flipped over on its top. Although most of the members of the band were treated

and released from local hospitals that night, one musician, Wendell Robinson, 23, is still hospitalized with head injuries.

Richard Bowling, manager of the Cosmos Club said that the goal of the concert is to raise \$3,000.

Bowling said the money is needed to replace the band's musical instruments, amplifiers,

uniforms and other equipment that was destroyed in the accident, and to help the Robinson family.

The Superiors are scheduled to return to the famed Apollo Theater in New York City next week. "They have a beautiful attitude," Bowling said, "and if anyone can make it to the top, they can."

## Attitudes On Desegregation Slowly Improving, Study Says

WASHINGTON (AP)—A government report on desegregation says community attitudes are improving, despite occasional violent disputes that preceded busing and other

planning, the commission said. "The executive branch has diminished its role as enforcer of desegregation requirements."

The report, titled School Desegregation in Ten Communities, also notes:

• School officials, assuming minority-group parents favor desegregation, tend to consider only the needs of the white community.

• The technical problems of achieving desegregation are fewer than anticipated.

• Contrary to fears that desegregation will lower education standards, it has in a number of communities contributed to substantial improvements and.

• The response of school officials, civil leaders and the news media to disruptive events can preserve calm or heighten tension.

Commission investigators studied schools and community reactions last winter in Pontiac, Mich., Hillsborough County, N.C., and Winston-Salem, N.C.

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## Tom Wicker

## At this point in time

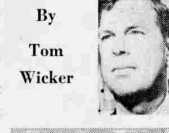
New York Times News Service

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, at this point in time, just before I deactivate my testimony, I would make a statement about the nature of a negative on this type of idea you can read in the press that says, well, those are just a lot of lies they have been telling down here in Washington.

Mr. Chairman, I would state accurately to this committee that it is pretty far from a lie that we have been telling down here in Washington, although I would have to guess you won't read that type of statement in the press. Now, but I would say we could move this thing along if I could help you understand the total setting in which these types of statements that some in the press, some individuals in the press, and I'm not complaining about it, just stating a fact, have made where they say, well, it just doesn't add up.

Now I obviously without a great deal of study and without a great deal of experience more than I have, I would not feel competent or that it was appropriate for me to comment on some of the types of things that some of these individuals in the press would have you believe are not exactly, well, one hundred percent. But I would say I would have some knowledge about some of these statements in the press, and it would be inappropriate to say that I could not share this type of thing with you, particularly after the lengthy process of review that I have put myself through, as well as all my files that didn't go to the shredder.

So to go directly to one point raised by some of these individuals in the press that we have referred to one side of the mark, so to speak, when we said that these types of stories in the press that said, well, the White



By  
Tom  
Wicker

House is up to their ears in Watergate, were based on hearsay and innuendo and character assassination, and we had the text of those types of stories that is exactly what they were based on, right down the line. I believe the hearsay and innuendo of some individuals that maybe had their own motivations. I'm not saying they had those types of motivations but they could have had, and we had the responsibility in the total setting and the overall context to look at that so they would not have our heads in our laps.

So they were just based on hearsay and innuendo and they certainly, I would say, did as much as some characters around the White House, and so how can they say, well, the White House is putting out word that is not viable? Because we never said those types of stories were wrong, just that they were based on hearsay, innuendo and character assassination, and we had the text of those types of stories that is exactly what they were based on, right down the line. I believe the hearsay and innuendo of some individuals that maybe had their own motivations. I'm not saying they had those types of motivations but they could have had, and we had the responsibility in the total setting and the overall context to look at that so they would not have our heads in our laps.

Now in another time frame, working together, these same individuals in the press would have other individuals believe there was maybe something inoperable about our statements that we were not protectively reacting in Cambodia. In point of fact what we really said was that we respected their neutrality as an on-going process on our part, and the fact is, Mr. Chairman, that we kept right on respecting their neutrality for the whole time that some option to take them off the board. And we still respect it, and we are just totally unimpressed that any individual would say any other type of thing about that.

Now I would say that on balance and again, if you will,

in the total getting of the executive branch and the separation of powers, together with the national security which no man ever can for one moment forget when you're sitting in the Oval Office with these tapes going every minute of the night and day—Mr. Chairman, I would have to say that these types of statements that maybe we would not have placed exactly the highest priority on truth when we said that the beach cabana at San Clemente was built to protect the president's security, that is just one of these things these individuals in the press say from time to time, and it is not going to wash.

Now the ongoing process of security requires that we sit down and ask ourselves, well, what is it that might actually in point of fact threaten the presidency? Not just to preserve, because we have to preserve all our options when it comes to the presidency itself, and I'm sure you'll agree on that. And in the process of exploring all those options what became perfectly obvious was that some individuals in the public could look across the beach and see the President of the United States in a process of putting on his pants one leg at a time like any other type of individual, well, it would just not be certain in that type of a case that the on-going presidency itself could survive.

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