

The Sun-Democrat

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We Realize Now How Wet It Was

We realized it had been a wet spring and early summer in this part of the country. But we had to see the official figures to comprehend just how wet it was.

It was nothing, of course, to compare with the great Ohio Valley flood of 1937, when we experienced 21 inches of rainfall within a 19-day period in January, and saw the river here reach a record height of 60.8 feet on the local gauge. But 1972's high water set an apparent record for longevity.

The Corps of Engineers has reported that the water at the juncture of the Mississippi and the Ohio at Cairo was above the 40-foot flood stage for 14 consecutive weeks ending in late June, not falling below that reading for as much as a day in the entire period. And it was above flood stage at Cairo for 172 out of 208 days going back to last fall.

The Tennessee Valley had a record-breaking total of rainfall for the fiscal year ended June 30, according to TVA. This produced new records for the Authority's flood control and hydro-electric power operations. Rainfall averaged 70

inches over the entire valley for the past year, about 14 inches above normal. The previous record for a July-June fiscal year was 62.3 inches in 1948-50, and for a calendar year was 64.6 inches in 1957. The Army Engineers estimate that TVA's impoundment operations saved about \$15-million in flood damage that would have otherwise been added to that actually experienced in the Ohio and Mississippi valleys, by withholding the Tennessee's surplus waters at Kentucky Dam. TVA itself estimates that the City of Chattanooga alone, had the dam-and-reservoir system not been in operation, would this year have suffered \$500-million in flood damage. Its actual water damage came to \$35-million.

TVA made a good thing of the flooding in its hydro-generators, by producing a record total of 24.5 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity during the fiscal year. This was up from the previous record of 21.3 billion KWH set the year before. And while water still produced less than one-fourth of the total power requirements of TVA's customers, the record hydro output nevertheless saved millions of dollars in coal costs.

Inouye's Key Question

Pursuing truth through the Watergate labyrinth, which every day adds new and more tortuous paths, has proved to be a mind-numbing exercise.

Sen. Daniel P. Inouye laid bare the difficulty, if not the impossibility, of sorting out the truth in the mountain of accusations and counter-accusations the other day with a key question to former Atty. Gen. John Mitchell.

Mr. Mitchell had just testified that he would have stopped at nothing short of treason to insure the reelection of President Nixon, and that he withheld facts about the Watergate cover-up from Mr. Nixon to protect him.

Sen. Inouye put this question to Mr. Mitchell:

If he was willing to take part in the cover-up of the burglary and to withhold the facts of the cover-up from the Presi-

dent, how far, Sen. Inouye asked, is he willing to go now to protect the President?

"More specifically," the senator continued, "are you willing to lie to protect the President?"

Mr. Mitchell didn't answer the question. Indeed there was no answer. He said he didn't have to make the choice because the President didn't know the facts about Watergate or the cover-up.

But how can anyone believe that? If Mr. Mitchell was willing to condone crime to protect Mr. Nixon would he not be willing to commit perjury to protect him now? And if he says he's telling the truth now, how can we believe him?

When truth is made secondary to anything else — the election of a friend, the confounding of an opponent, the success of an ideology — then government with integrity is impossible.

William Buckley Asks:

What Else Is Needed In Watergate Probe?

A shrewd observer in these parts says about Watergate that it is all over. I am not committed to his conclusion, but I find it interesting. Surely the salient datum, tending to corroborate it, is the Gallup Poll. It is quite startling on the subject, reaching to a decisiveness seldom seen in the polls. It says simply this: Nixon is guilty, and should not be removed. Seventy-one per cent of the people believe that Nixon knew about Watergate and the cover-up. But only 18 per cent believe that the condign punishment is removal from office.

Assuming that the figures stand at more or less that level, it wouldn't make any difference if Mr. Nixon appeared on television and said that he had just come out of a bout of paramnesia that had so disordered his memory on all matters that pertained to Watergate, that come to think of it he had commissioned the bugging, and de-commissioned the investigation. It wouldn't appear to matter, according to Gallup, except that conceivably the public would be all the more pro-Nixon in gratitude for his confirming their intuition that he was guilty.

It wouldn't matter, according to Gallup, if the Senate committee uniformly concluded that Nixon was guilty. Granted, the House of Representatives would have the power to hand down a bill of impeachment, which the Senate would be required to try. But the people's wishes are unlikely to proceed thwart the wishes of a people so resolutely aligned against impeachment. The people seem to be saying what I have contended for several months, namely that the impeachment clause of the Constitution is to be used nowadays only in order to remove a president, not to punish him; because to punish him, in most circumstances, is to punish the republic at large, and the republic at large is not guilty of Watergate.

Could it be that the dilemma is in some way responsible for a certain listlessness that has overtaken the Congress?

DUNAGIN'S PEOPLE by Dunagin



"GREAT NEWS, CHEF! WE CAN DEFINITELY MEET THE 1975 CLEAN AIR STANDARDS BY 1976."

tee? Is it the imagination that sees an overlay of tedium coming down on the proceedings? It isn't seriously suggested that the senators' interest in legislative reform justifies all that commotion. All that commotion is justified only by the peoples' curiosity on the question: Will Nixon be brought down? If it is established that he will not, for the simple reason that the public doesn't want him to, then the whole of the Watergate investigations become something of a venture in supererogation, a vast enterprise in ordering and re-ordering the foot notes to a drama already consummated.

If one had to put it on a fever scale, I would say that by the end of the first day of John Dean's testimony, the anti-Nixon fever chart reached, say, 85 out of a possible 100. It reached, say, 90 the day Nixon fired Haldebrand and Ehrlichman, gave a television address affirming his innocence, which had the result of increasing by 20 per cent the people who thought he was guilty. "Deb Magruder" came up to 95. But it was when John Dean was through, if he had already begun to slide.

And then the committee, in another fit of insouciance, gave itself one of those prodigious holidays they give themselves every fourth or so, and 10 whole days later John Mitchell was examined, the business seemed headed for a hopeless ambiguity. A single issue of the New York Times transcribed no less than five times in five different stories! Mitchell's high emotional moment of the day, when he said that Magruder's testimony to the effect that he, Mitchell, had read the transcript from the first Watergate bugging, was "a palpable damnable lie."

Well, it may very well have been a lie. And it may very well have been a damnable lie. But a palpable lie it most certainly was not. Because there is no apparent way of disproving what Magruder's testimony was or so, and the way of doing so. What it was, then, was an impalpable, damnable lie. And there is so much impalpability going around that, at this rate, the factual intricacies of Watergate will disappear in the mists of history, like the French Affaire des Fuites, in 1956. That got so complicated, that people became resigned to the impossibility of understanding it and, not long after, the curiosity fell down, and died.

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In the olden times car carried emergency gasoline tanks on the running boards. It would be a good idea today, if there were such things as running boards.

Congressman Sludgepump points out that a statute of himself in the courts would require wouldn't cost much. If the sculptor could find a large, round boulder there would be very little carrying to do.

By WILLIAM SAFIRE
New York Times News Service
WASHINGTON—In Mr. Nixon's first term, we moved from an era of confrontation to an era of negotiation, in his second term, Democrats are determined to move us into an era of investigation.

"What the President knew and when he knew it." That was the goal of the Senate's Watergate investigation, succinctly stated and widely accepted as the ultimate target of truth-seekers.

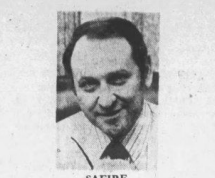
At least, that used to be the accepted goal back when a lot of people assumed evidence would be brought forth to prove that the President had knowledge of a crime. Now, however, it appears that all we will see is unsubstantiated charges and irate denials. No proof. No impeachment. No resignation.

Where will that leave us? Will the accusers and the Senate committee announce that because they have not been able to pin a crime on the President, the presumption of innocence prevails and he should be permitted to go back to the business of governing the country without harassment?

Not, as Eliza Doolittle would put it, bloody likely. The Democratic campaign of 1972 is finally, if belatedly, under way.

The Democratic strategy is to proceed in the next four years to investigate the last four years. The Robespierres of retribution, revealing in each new revelation, have a wide range of investigations already under way in addition to the televised hearings.

Grand juries are burrowing into Watergate and related matters in Wash-



SAFIRE

ington, D.C., New York, Houston, Orlando and Los Angeles. Senate Appropriations and Armed Services committees are both looking into CIA and FBI involvement, and House Armed Services, Commerce, and Banking and Currency committees will have their day on CIA, ITT, Mexican laundering, grain deals and you name it. Four civil suits filed by Common Cause, Ralph Nader's Public Citizen, the Democratic National Committee and a former National Security Council staffer will, the litigants hope, generate publicity for years, as will SEC and FBI investigations, and the anticipated criminal trials that could turn Washington into Nuremberg.

Along with that all, the General Accounting office will frequently be heard from. The GAO is a creature of the Congress, now controlled by Democrats, set up to investigate the executive branch, now controlled (if that is the right word) by Republicans. On efficiency audits, the GAO has been a useful and generally nonpartisan agency. On its new election

assignment, however, the GAO monitors financial disclosures of presidential elections only; Congress will not let it near the elections of representatives and senators, but nobody complains about this double standard.

It's a full plate for lovers of investigatory democracy. About the only political campaign scandal that will not be mentioned is the misuse of the FBI to bug the telephones of Republican candidates and their supporters in the Nixon-Agnew campaign of 1968 (but that happened when Ramsey Clark was attorney general, so it could not have been an intrusion into civil liberties).

In sum, we have an onslaught of five grand juries, at least six congressional committees, the GAO, SEC and FBI, not to mention the growing beachhead of avid Kennedy and McGovern hands who make up the new Cox's Army at the Justice Department.

Even a witch hunt can turn up some

real witches. But sooner or later, it will dawn on more people that investigating is not governing, that constantly looking backward is not the way to move forward, and that the nation is not well served by an unremitting campaign along a government-wide front to tie the chief executive's hands.

The bipartisan revolution at the Watergate scandal has given way to a campaign by partisans in nonpartisan clothing to retroactively "win" the 1972 election. Since they now know they cannot bring down the President, they intend to continually challenge his legitimacy — in effect, to wear him down.

The prophetic will not succeed. The eye of the storm has passed, and Nixon did not blink. We may be getting into the longest permanent floating investigation game the nation has ever seen, but even a properly chastened President is not the sort to let himself be trampled on much longer.

Sunday Sermon

A Centurion's Faith

By THE REV. CHARLES K. HENRY

There is a story of a man whose faith was so complete that Christ proclaimed it the greatest faith He had ever found in all Israel (Luke 7:1-10).

He was a centurion, an officer in the Roman Army. His servant was so sick he was about to die. This officer heard that Jesus was in the community, so he sent his friends to Him asking for help. Christ was very busy, but He was never too busy to hear and to respond to a call of human need. He is not too busy today to hear those who need and want Him.

As Jesus approached the man's house, the centurion sent word to Christ asking Him not to go to the actual trouble to come into the house. First, he felt unworthy. He said "I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof." Second, he felt it unnecessary for Christ to come in person. He said, "Say in a word, and my servant shall be healed." Those are two basic conditions upon which we receive the power of Christ.

There are many people who feel they have no right to pray or to expect God's help. These persons are correct. No person is worthy of the goodness of God. The most hopeless person is the one who feels he can buy the favor of God through good works. The Bible tells us: "By grace are you saved through faith; and not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; not of works, but any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8, 9). This passage gives the meaning of grace as undeserving mercy.

Before we take the sacrament of the Lord's supper in my own church, we pray, "We do not presume to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table." Realizing our own unworthiness and trusting in God's compassionate mercy we can ask His help.

Being a trained officer in the army, he recognized the meaning of power and authority, and he realized that Christ was a man of authority and power in the area of the spirit. This centurion could issue a command and set in motion the operation of certain laws of the government. So Christ could speak and set in motion certain spiritual laws of the universe.

The servant who was sick probably did not know Christ. Surely, he did not know anyone had petitioned Christ on his behalf. Yet Christ did speak a word and the servant was healed. Here a very important truth of intercessory prayer is made clear. Christ always worked His miracles as result of faith, but it was not necessary always for the prayer to be helped to have faith.

James said, "The prayer of faith shall save the sick." (James 5:15) There the faith required was not in the sick but rather in the person praying. Of course, if the sick person also expresses faith along with the one praying for him, that is all the better. But it



REV. C. K. HENRY

is not always essential. If I pray with proper faith, though the other person may seem completely indifferent to God, our prayers can bring great results. Jesus healed the servant because of the faith of the centurion.

So far as I know, Jesus marveled at the faith of only this one man. How did this man get his faith? He was not born into a home of faith and he was not trained in his early childhood. For many of us, faith comes normally and naturally because of the training received by godly parents and teachers. But this man's faith came in other ways. As I read the story it appears to me there are four ways or steps to his faith:

(1) He became acquainted with Christ. We are not actually told this in the story, but if that had not been true, then he would not have sought Christ's help personally. Maybe he heard about Him and went to hear Him preach or to see Him perform His miracles.

(2) This centurion supported the church. The Jews said: "He built us a synagogue." When a person gets interested in the church and works to build it, eventually he comes to believe in Him who is the foundation of the church. The church has its flaws, but it is still the greatest faith-building institution on earth.

(3) This centurion was a man of humility. "I am not worthy that thou shouldst enter under my roof." A conceited person never finds Christ. And what is worse he never even desires to find Him. As long as we feel that we can get along by ourselves, we don't need faith in Christ. Faith is developed out of our realization of our own weakness. I know that one can pray sitting, standing or whatever position, but I also know it helps to get on our knees.

(4) This man believed in other people. We see his deep concern for the servant who was sick. The very fact he was seeking to help others indicates that he believed they were worth helping. God made man "in His own image." So, if we learn to believe in people, we naturally believe in God. On the other hand, if we are critical of others and hold spirits of envy or ill will in our hearts, then naturally we feel the same way toward God.

Walk in the above steps of faith and you will marvel at what faith does for you. Have a GOOD DAY, MY FRIEND.

Back Talk Letters To The Editor:

More Investigations Needed

EDITOR:

It is still Watergate and Sen. Sam Ervin Jr., and his Democratic brainwashing over and over in the investigation, just like they did over in North Korea to the American war prisoners and earlier to the crew of the warship Pueblo. Sen. Ervin did not do anything about his knowledge of the bugging of Jimmie Hoffa's office home; Robert Kennedy had that done and the bugging down in Selma and Montgomery, Ala. Kennedy and Johnson bugged almost all the towns in Mississippi.

I think we need an investigation in Kentucky of some elections back in the '60s and a y b e last year. Sen. Ervin took time off from the Watergate brain-

washing with other senators to vote them a raise of \$12,900 a year. What was done for the disabled veterans and the old people—they voted a five-and-a-half cent raise on Social Security for July, 1974, then voted it down.

There never has been a time our Senate and Congress hated the president like they do President Nixon. They made it hard on President Hoover, they blamed him with the hard times in the '30s, he had a Democratic Congress and Senate. It was the same way in Kentucky for Gov. Louis B. Nunn, they lied on him about taxes.

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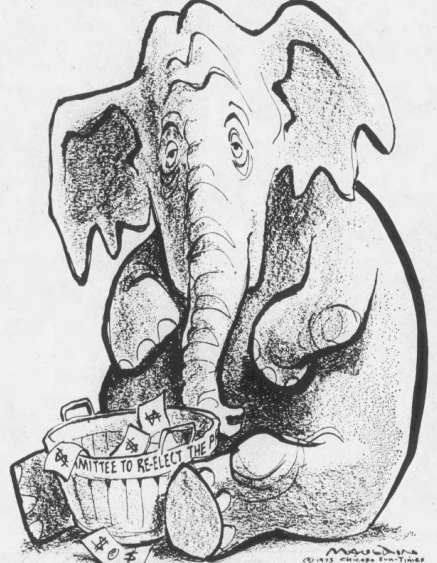
Nixon Needs Support

EDITOR:

The following is a telegram sent today to Sen. Sam Ervin:
"In my considered opinion, John Mitchell has made your committee come across as a group of 'schoolboys with a script.' In the public interest, why don't you bow out gracefully? In bowing out, let's remember Chappaquiddick and Billy Sol Estes.

What man living or who ever has lived, other than Christ Himself, doesn't have a "Watergate"? President Nixon needs the support and prayers now, more than at any previous time, of every thinking, genuine American citizen.

LOUIS D. MYRE, M.D.
Paducah
P.S. As you would surmise, I'm prejudiced. LDM.



"I CAN'T BELIEVE I ATE THE WHOLE THING."

John P. Roche Says:

Word For Court Is 'Mediocrity'

ROCHE

Now that the Supreme Court has concluded its year's labors, the analysts are busy trying to put a label on the net results. The general line seems to be that there is a "conservative" trend, though the evidence for this conclusion is tenuous at best. The difficulty is that the court, as an institution, simply defies categorization in terms of the old "liberal"-"conservative" axis.

Take the abortion decision, Roe v. Wade, as a case in point. Here the justices, led by Harry Blackmun, who presumably obtained his para-medical credentials as counsel to the Mayo Clinic, went charging into one of the most complex legal and moral questions confronting Americans. Former Chief Justice Earl Warren seems to be a bit puzzled these days when he hears sneering references to his court as "activist."

Without getting into a discussion of the decision, which (despite my support for carefully regulated abortion procedures) reads like a bad second-year law school exercise, the point is how do you pigeonhole it? OK... let's say "liberal," with the understanding that I don't want the Supreme Court of the United States acting as diagnosticians if I should land up in Massachusetts General Hospital.

But then what about pornography and state aid to parochial schools? The pornography decision was treated here recently, but let me recall the pivotal

Senator Soaper

The great hopes of racing make as much money as the stars of other sports, and have an even better retirement plan.

Two houses per family are becoming more common and may have an effect on our lifestyles. It would seem only fair to have two wives to do the housework.

Shotgun Schultz's brother-in-law admits he is a loafer, but points out he is a dedicated loafer.

Diamonds may still be a girl's best friend, if she can't afford sapphire.



ROCHE