

The Fall of Richard Nixon

1974

January 2

Nixon signed a bill for 55 mph speed limit ceiling
to save oil & gas

January 23

Some experts told Judge Sirica that the
18 1/2 minute gap, so famous at the time
was caused by five separate erasures

—the inference then beamed to public derision
that it cdn't have been a “terrible mistake”

Something to Emulate in Cuba

January 16

A Maternity Law in Cuba
gave women workers a leave of absence
six weeks prior to birth, and
three afterward

plus time off for taking the child to the doctor
before and after the birth
and other benefits

January 22, 1974

Leon Jaworksi
asked Nixon's new criminal attorney, James St. Clair
for 22 more tapes

No  No

replied St. Clair

January 23

Exxon the world's biggest oil company
had its mighty fangs on the money neck
in the 4th quarter just completed
vampiring big profits
—up 59% in the 4th quarter o' '73

taking advantage of the Arab oil embargo

January 30

The Glowerman gave his State of the Union Address
before the Congress & the Supreme Court

For once it was as if he were singing the Beatles' “Let it Be.”

“I believe the time has come
to bring that investigation

to an end and the other investigations to an end.
One year of Watergate is enough”

Sorry, Tricky

The Senate Watergate Committee
by now had compiled a 33-volume report

*Ah those helicopter blades
keep on riling Acheron's shades*

Nixon and Colson Conspire to Zap the Tapes March 1974

Nixon later wrote that in early 1974
“I even talked about
destroying the tapes”

A great columnist of the era
Jack Anderson
wrote about the scheme
(see his column for 8-13-74)

which involved constructing a “de-gaussing cannon”
to “fire a gigantic magnetic pulse at
the White House tape storage room”
as Anderson wrote.

An electronics expert was sent into action
by Charles Colson (according to the expert)
The expert was sent to Texas to get a price for the cannon

In addition to the de-gaussing bombardment
of Nixon's tapes

the CIA was also to be de-gaussed from afar
either from a plane
or from a truck van lurking in the heavy woods
near Langley

The proposal was finally halted because of fear the
de-gaussing beam
would erase important national security tapes

The SLA February 4

It was one of those things
that sprang
from the brow of '74
full-formed and freaky.
They called themselves the Symbionese Liberation Army

and today they kidnapped
a 19 year old newspaper heiress Patty Hearst
from her campus apartment in Berkeley

It was a small leftist group
headed by a guy named Donald DeFreeze who'd escaped from prison
a few months previous
& renamed himself (Joseph) Cinque after the man
who led the successful revolt on the slave ship *Amistad* in '39

Talk about headlines!
Her parents owned some of the
Yellow Journalism nexus!

The SLA had a couple of adepts in prison
and initially sought a prisoner swap
for the heiress

This couldn't happen, and then they
demanded the Hearsts hand out food to the needy

Several million dollars of food was distributed
but it was more of a food-fling from trucks
which nearly caused a riot
they say

so further food-flings were ceased

Meanwhile Hearst was kept
in a closet
for indoctrination

February 12

the Federal Grand Jury, in a straw vote
among themselves, wanted to indict
the president for bribery, conspiracy
& obstruction of a criminal investigation

and while Jaworski himself did not want to indict Nixon
some of his staff very much urged it

February 13

Alexandr Solzhenitzen was stomped out of Russia
after sections of *The Gulag Archipelago* were published in Paris

He'd been arrested during W2 for criticizing Stalin in a letter
tried in absentia, sentenced to 8 years in the Gulag.

The strange Mr. Solzhenitzen
a believer in a 19th century Christian Russian Orthodox despotism
wound up in Vermont

February 25

the grand jury voted 19-0, with one abstention
authorizing the Special Prosecutor
"to identify Richard M. Nixon
(among others) as an unindicted co-conspirator."

It was a compromise
and no outsiders, not even Nixon,

knew about “unindicted co-conspirator”
till it somehow leaked a few months later

March 1

It was indictment time for Tricky’s cult
United States v. Mitchell et al.
Mitchell, Haldeman, Ehrlichman, Colson, Mardian, Strachan,
and CREEP attorney Kenneth Parkinson:
conspiracy to obstruct justice & other crimes

That day too Judge Sirica
was given the “Report and Recommendation”
from the Watergate grand jury

urging that evidence “be made available
to the House Judiciary Committee for such use
as is appropriate in the impeachment proceedings...”

Then Richard Ben-Veniste
handed a packed briefcase to the Judge
saying “This is the material made reference to
in the document.”

uh oh
uh oh
uh oh

Impeachment Slowly Moving Forward

In an impeachment
the House brings the charges
and the Senate tries the case
2/3’s of the Senators have to vote aye
in order to convict the pres-perp
with the Supreme Court chief justice presiding

March 19

the oil embargo was lifted, but prices
thanks to the vampiring of oilocrats
remained high

There are no silver stakes for oil-co’s

Streaking Spring ’74

A fad among American youth that spring
was streaking naked in public
mainly in colleges
and also at the Academy Awards
a young man near David Niven
nude

April 3

Patricia Hearst somehow fell prey to the Stockholm Syndrome—

(After two men in 1973
held four hostages, bound w/ dynamite, for six days
in a bank robbery in Stockholm
hostages and captors somehow bonded.
Later one of the women hostages
became engaged to a captor
& started a defense fund)

Today there was a taped message from Patty Hearst
with a photo of her toting a machine gun

She was now Tania, and her message:
"I have chosen to stay and fight"

& on the same day, honoring Western Civilization
Nixon, getting his ethics from the cartoon character
"Tightwad Tad"
said ok ok ok he'd pay \$432,787 in back taxes

April 8

Hank Aaron home run number 715

April 11

the House Judiciary Committee subpoenaed 42 tapes
& a week later
Leon Jaworski subpoenaed another 64

tick tick

April 15

Cinque AKA Donald DeFreeze
with four molls
one of them Tania AKA Patty Hearst
robbed a small SF bank

The Stockholmized Ms. Hearst told
those lying prone on the floor

"If any of you motherfuckers raise your head
I'll shoot you!"

There was a famous photograph published then
from a surveillance video
showing Tania ready to spray ack ack
at the bank

Better Times for Portugal

April 25

A 7 person junta tossed premier Marcello Caetano out of office
in Portugal
and said it would end 40 years of stark dictatorship

(the semi-fascist, secret-police-fear dictatorship set up by
Antonio de Oliveira Salazar in '32 had continued, even after his

debilitating stroke in 1968)

But, at last, the ghost of the totalitarian time-trap
was shoved out of a fine nation

also, secret police overthrown
also, censorship gone
also, Portugal swung to left

April 29

Glowerman said he'd release edited transcripts
to the Judiciary Committee
and so the next day 1,254 pages were forked forth

There were far too many "expletive deleted"
for the stomach of the public

The Problem of the Raw Nixon Mind

*The people like a church and steeple
Majesty and might and power polite
Is what they seek, not a babbling freak*

Nixon Racing Down the Stairs as if in Flight from the Phantom of Self Spring 1974

A guy named Joseph Laitin who worked at OMB
one day that spring walked to the White House West Wing
to see Treasury Secretary George Schultz

He was ascending the stairs
when down galloped Richard Nixon
wild-eyed "like a madman" as Laitin later recalled
and the mad one collided with Laitin

Following on the heels of Nixon
were six Secret Service agents

as recounted in Anthony Summers'
book *The Arrogance of Power*

Laitin had Defense Sec Schlesinger's private number
and called him

saying, as he later recounted "If I were in your
position, I would want to know who the nearest combat
ready troops were who would respond to the president's
wishes to surround the White House. I would want
to know what the next nearest combat-ready division
was, which would not only be able to overcome them
but also respond only to the chain of command."

May 6

Nixon had learned that he had been

fingered by the grand jury
as an unindicted co-conspirator

The Special Prosecutor said that if Nixon would
hand over 20 key tapes out of the 64 so-far subpoenaed
they would delay naming Nix as u.c.

Nixon then listened to the tapes
after which he summoned General Haig:

“No one is to listen to these tapes....
No one. Not the lawyers. No one.”

then ordered them locked up
with no further sets of ears allowed near



ahh, it was a smokin', smokin' all the while

Early May

After Nix-Nox refused on the tapes
Jaworski went to Sirica
to demand that the subpoena for the 64 tapes be enforced

Sirica okayed the fork-over
Nixon appealed
then Jaworski
asked the Supreme Court to
decide the case “on an accelerated basis”

& to the smiles of Clio
the Supreme Court agreed
& a hearing was set for July 8

*ahh, them blades
them whirring blades*

May 15

after seven had died from uterine infections and
others suffered serious infections

the Dalkon Shield was taken off market by th' A. H. Robins Company
3 to 5 million women were using the IUD
2 million the Dalkon shield

May

Kissinger, probably sensing bye bye for his boss
did four tiring weeks of shuttling
tween Syria and Israel
to help set up an agreement
for partial comity

May 18

The nation of India
set off an underground a-bomb
in the Rajasthan Desert

May 19
the French Left surged in '74!
when Francois Mitterand almost won the Presidency
with 49.2% of the vote to
Valery Giscard d'Estaing's 50.8%

Mitterand vowed to nationalize banks and major industries
to lessen unemployment and "social inequality."

SLA House Burned

May 17

After the bank robbery in SF
the tiny cell that called itself the Symbionese Liberation Army
moved downstate to Los Angeles

and today in their new hideout
they were surrounded by 400 police and FBI
there was a gun battle
the house burned down
six of them were discovered dead & charred
including Cinque

(Patty not among them
she would stay on the lam for over a year)

June 6
as Nixon was preparing
for a five-nation trip to the Middle East
& then a trip to visit Brezhnev in Moscow
in a desperate attempt to avoid impeachment
the *Los Angeles Times*
broke the story that he had been fingered
as an "unindicted co-conspirator"

June 10
Nixon flew Air Force One to Salzburg, Austria
on the way to the Mideast

Kissinger was along
scorched from his own mouth in the Mideast

& miffed at all the questions from the media
on his (Kissinger's) role in selecting
associates & newsmen to be illegally wiretapped

(which had leaked from the impeachment inquiry)

June 11

Kissinger called a press conference in Salzburg

and threatened to resign if he
were not cleared of wrongdoing
in ordering the illegal taps

It worked

& Kissinger stayed in the regime
all the way to Carter

June 14

Dr. Henry Heimlich
of Xavier U in Cincinnati

demonstrated the Heimlich maneuver
to save those choking, particularly in restaurants

standing behind a victim
pressing fist "sharply" into the abdomen
to compress the lungs

squirting air thereby
to force out the choking material

June 30

Mikhail Baryshnikov, just 26
with rocketman legs
defected from the Bolshoi Ballet while in Toronto

and soon joined the American Ballet Theater

July 1

Richard Nixon and Leonid Brezhnev
concluded their final Moscow Summit

& signed agreements to limit each nation to a single
ABM system "launch area"

July 9

the great American
Earl Warren
passed at 83

He didn't quite live to see his distasteful opponent
lift off from the lawn

July 13

a three-volume 2,299 page report was published
from the Senate Watergate Committee

July 14

inflation inflation inflation
as greed-heads took advantage
of the oil price rise
& insecurity over politics

to gouge ordinary people

July 23

At long last

Greece was returned to civilian control

in the midst of the battle with Turkish forces in Cyprus

& 7 years after the CIA-assisted military take-over

Constantine Caramanlis became the premier again

having lived in exile in Paris after

premier-ing '55-'63

Are You Kidding?

July 23

The support math

indicated southern Democrats

(who looked to George Wallace as a leader)

were buckling

so Nixon called the man who suspected him of being
involved in the shooting in Laurel, Maryland

Nixon: "I'm just calling to ask if you're still with me."

Wallace: "No, Mr. President, I'm afraid I'm not."

Here's a Good Political Principle:

*Never Ask Someone Who Thinks You Tried to Kill Him
for Political Support*

Helicopter Blades— Part 5

July 24

The US Supreme Court decided that morning unanimously
in *United States of America v. Richard Nixon, President
of the United States*

that he had to supply all 64 tapes
to the Special Prosecutor
on the nonce

Nixon was informed down in Florida
He asked his attorney (Fred Buzhardt)
to put an ear on one particular tape, June 23, 1972

Buzhardt called back

"This is the smoking gun."



Impeachment Time for Tricky July 26

The House Judiciary Committee voted, 27-11
to impeach Nix
for using his power “to delay, impede and obstruct
the investigation” of the break-in “& to conceal the existence
and scope of the unlawful covert activities”

July 29 it added another impeachment article
that Nix had violated “the constitutional rights of citizens,
impairing the due and proper administration of justice
and conduct of lawful inquiry”

and July 30, a third article, that Nix’s refusal to
fork over his tapes was a “high misdemeanor.”

A fourth article of impeachment, that Nix had
unlawfully concealed from Congress the
secret bomb-slaughter of Cambodia,
was voted down by the Committee

Keeping Nixon from the Nuclear Football Late July

Defense Sec James Schlesinger met with new Joint Chiefs Chair
Air Force General George Brown

telling the general

that all orders from the White House
had to go through Schlesinger

Defense Secretary Schlesinger
was making sure that Tricky
didn’t do any nuclearly freaky



(The National Security act of 1947 requires that a president
send all military commands through the Secretary of Defense
who then forwards them to the
chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff)

General Robert Cushman represented the Marines
on the Joint Chiefs

The Marines were one possible source of Nixonian shore-up
for General Cushman was close to the president

(he'd been Nixon's nat'l sec. adviser when VP
and was the deputy CIA director who provided
CIA facilities to E. Howard Hunt)

Schlesinger was worried
that Tricky would get Cushman to send Marines
to the White House
to ring it like the DC buses at war protests

so that  would replace 

and then Schlesinger would have to
use the Army to go after the Marines

The nearest troops to the White House
in significant #'s were marine units under Cushman
at a barracks outside DC
and others in Quantico, Virginia

Schlesinger determined that the Army's 82nd Airborne
Division could be lifted to DC from
Ft. Bragg, NC in about 5 hours

There was something at Langley Air Force Base in Va.
called the Worldwide Military Command and Control System

to deal with a nuclear war
and to brief the president and top commanders.

Just a few days before Nix's resignation
an order came
for the Command and Control officers

in charge of nukes
not to obey any commands of Nixon

The Yes-No Whirl July 30

Tricky agreed to resign

but yet for days continued a kind of yes/no stutter

Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes

Pat wanted him to
fight all the way

July

In the midst of flicking Tricky
Congress passed the National Research Act
which set up guidelines for research on humans
after the public disgust over the Tuskegee Syphilis Study
(a 40 year experiment conducted by the Public Health Service)

in Alabama
where 399 black males, in exchange for hot meals
were unknowingly given syphilis
which was then untreated
as the victims were observed for 40 years
ending in 1972)

August 2

John Dean was sentenced by Judge Gerhard Gesell to 1-4 years
& John Ehrlichman 20 months to five years

Bye

Two Flawed Humans Pray

August 7

Mr. Nixon went upstairs in the evening
to the Lincoln Sitting Room
a small room where he kept his stereo
and favorite records

There he brooded
and summoned Henry Kissinger

& told the pain man he was resigning.

They then spoke of Legacy
& Kissinger, among other things, told Tricky
he'd be remembered for the peace he had brought

after which, if the account in
Bernstein-Woodward's *Final Days* is accurate

the weeping Nixon sank to his knees
bidding Kissinger to join him

"We need to pray," he said

The Lincoln Room carpet was as close to a gutter
as Nixon would ever sink or mutter

and so they tarried in prayer
till finally Nixon leaned down
and smashed his fist into the carpet
"What have I done? What has happened?"

Nixon Pondering Writing in Jail like Lenin

August 8

In the afternoon
perhaps thinking of sunlight through vertical rods

Nix told Alexander Haig:

"Lenin & Gandhi
did some of their best writing in jail"

(and so did Hitler)

That same day he
gave his speech of bye bye to the nation

He'd leave at noon
hurray!
on the ninth

Later at the White House
with Pat and his daughters
there was a chant from the street

"Jail to the Chief
Jail to the Chief..."

They heard it
and drew the curtains
against the slamtime pleonasm

Friday morning, August 9, 1974

Alexander Haig
brought Nixon a letter, addressed to Kissinger:

"Dear Mr. Secretary,

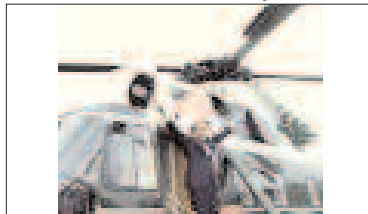
I hereby resign the Office of President of the United States

Sincerely,

Richard Nixon"

Friday Morning, August 9, 1974

There was a final speech to his staff
then a walk upon a red carpet
to the finest helicopter ride
in all of history



as Nixon lifted off from the lawn

See Dick wave
Wave, Dick, Wave

In Woodstock it was strangely quiet
when I drove downtown to
join what I was certain wd be
a swarm of wild joy on the village green
but there was no swarm, no joy
just the strange calm
of a summertime art colony

so I did a Blake-like personal dance
of Ha Ha Hee

Bye, Mr. Redbait
Bye, Mr. Break-in
Bye, Mr. Anti-Semite
Bye, Mr. Christmas Bomber

& I'm still dancing
over 30 years after my jubilation
on the Woodstock Green!

Here's the Rule:

When all your soul
Says dance dance dance
do it!

That same day as Nixon's  -flash
Gerald Ford was sworn in by Chief Justice Burger
& promised us that "Our long national nightmare is over."

Sure, it was.

Nix had ordered all his tapes sent with him
to California
and his smoking papers too

There were 4,000 hours of tapes
and 42,000,000 pages of doc's

A truck and a plane were in place
ready to cart away the smoke

but Ford to his credit sniffed a



and ordered them not sent

Nixon spent the rest of his life
trying to prevent the public
from hearing his smoke

(By the year 2,000 only
864 hours of smoke-talk
had been freed to the public

More have been released in the 2,000's
some of it racist murk-mumbles)