

# Tape tampering denied

KEY BISCAIYNE, Fla.—President Nixon's chief lawyer said Sunday reports that two subpoenaed presidential tape recordings may have been doctored "utterly false." James D. St. Clair said he would request an investigation into leaks from the Watergate grand jury to halt such insinuations.

St. Clair said one member of the panel of experts examining the Watergate tape recordings had expressed an opinion "many weeks ago" that two of the tapes could be re-recordings.

However, St. Clair said a technical investigation ordered by the White House showed the conditions which aroused the unnamed panel member's suspicions were actually characteristic of the recorder on which the original recordings were made. St. Clair and White House counsel J. Fred

Buzhardt Jr. were summoned to Key Biscayne by President Nixon who reportedly was enraged by a Washington Post report which said such insinuations had been raised among the tape experts by the White House to Watergate investigators were re-recordings and not originals.

"Because there has been so much speculation in recent weeks concerning these tapes, I cannot let another round of such inaccuracy and innuendo go unchallenged." St. Clair said stories like the one in the Post could only impair the work of the grand jury seeking to determine the authenticity of the recordings and added: "I intend to discuss this matter promptly

with the Department of Justice and request that an investigation be instituted as to the person or persons who may have violated legal constraints in referring to matters within the purview of the Grand Jury.

"I am absolutely confident that when all the facts are known the authenticity and integrity of the tapes turned over to the court will be clearly established."

In addition to denying that any report by the court-appointed experts "tentative or otherwise" suggested any re-recordings, St. Clair also said he could shed additional light on another controversial recording—the 18½ minute gap in the tape of a conversation Nixon had with his former assistant, H. R. Haldeman, on June 20, 1972.



Richard M. Nixon

# Stolen chopper shot down at White House

WASHINGTON Flying directly at the White House through a hail of buckshot, a distraught soldier crash-landed a stolen Army helicopter on a lawn 100-yards short of the President's residence Sunday morning in the finale to a wild, aerial joy-ride.

No one was hurt seriously in the 2 a.m. EDT shootout. Secret Service shotguns punched holes in the sides of the oncoming Army "Huey" helicopter, forcing it to bounce down tail-up on the South Lawn of the White House, and tackled the struggling pilot.

Officials identified him as Pfc. Robert K. Preston, 20, of Panama City, Fla., a helicopter repairman from Fort Meade, Md., and a would-be pilot who reportedly was upset about flunking out of Army flight school.

President Nixon and his family were out of town at the time of the incident.

Secret servicemen bundled Preston off to Walter Reed Army hospital where, according to Army sources, he entered "laughing like hell." He was treated first for superficial buckshot wounds and later held for psychiatric examination.

"He's a helluva pilot especially for a Pfc." who has no pilot's qualification, said Don L. Sewell, a Maryland state police chopper pilot who chased Preston helplessly on an hour-long buzzing spree that led from Fort Meade to the White House.

Sewell said he hovered alongside Preston

a few feet above the lawn at the Washington monument as the soldier took his final bead on the White House and roared in just high enough to clear the steel picket fence.

"From my indications, his intention was to fly the aircraft directly into the White House," Sewell said. But shotgun fire brought him up short and Secret Service agent Jack Warner said Preston's craft then "appeared to land on its own."

"If he had not harassed the citizens of the state of Maryland as he did, and had not made such a big show of it... the man could have flown directly into the White House at 160 miles per hour and there wouldn't have been anything anybody could do," Sewell said.

As recounted later by Army officials, the pilots pursuing him and the shotguns who cut off his final run at the White House, Preston had:

- Swiped an unarmed UH1B "Huey" transport helicopter, from Fort George Meade, Md., about 12:30 a.m.

- Flew toward Washington at speeds ranging from 80 to 120 mph and heights ranging from hundreds of feet to car-top levels, buzzing traffic along the highways and at one point clipping the aerial off a police car.

- Feinted one of the two state police helicopters chasing him right off the trail with what admiring pilots described as "modern dogfight tactics" and reached the capital with only Sewell on his tail.

"He came down the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and then flew downtown," state policeman William Clark said. "He then turned on all his lights and hovered five minutes at the Washington monument grounds seven feet off the ground."

"Then he flew across to the White House like he was going to crash into it."

Clark said Preston "lowered to three feet" before the Secret Service shotguns tore half-dollar-sized holes in his fuselage. "The copter bounced around on the lawn and the Maryland helicopter flown by Sewell landed between it and the White House," he said.

Army spokesmen at Ft. Meade confirmed Preston had washed out of Ft. Walters, Texas, Flight School.

## Gas 'pumpout' strike threatens to spread

A "pumpout" strike by service stations threatened to spread across the nation Sunday, further plaguing motorists experiencing one of the worst gasless holiday weekends ever.

A penny a gallon gasoline price increase okayed by federal officials for more than half the dealers in the country to make up for dwindling profits was poorly received by most service station organizations.

Shutdowns of Virginia's Tidewater service stations threatened to snowball as discouraged gasoline retailers searched for methods to voice their complaints.

Organizers said the strike had been 50-80 per cent successful in the Tidewater areas, and in Harrisburg, Pa., not a single gas station was open Saturday. Police said some threats had been reported against service stations that stayed open.

Virginia's gas dealers group said more than half the service stations in the state could be closed by the end of the week.

A group of 46 gasoline dealers in Greenwich, Conn., said they would shut down their pumps Tuesday until the federal government lifts the ban on preferential treatment for regular customers.

In the Northwest, the Evergreen Service Station Association representing dealers who pump 70 per cent of the gasoline in western Washington and Oregon said they would begin a "pumpout" of all their gasoline supplies at midnight Sunday then shut down unless agreement was reached with federal energy officials investigating their complaints against irregular and insufficient deliveries.

Motorists lined up for a quarter of a mile outside some gas stations in Portland, Ore., to fill up while they could.

The Daily Tar Heel On The Outside from the wires of United Press International

Compiled by Tom Sawyer Wire Editor

## Encouraged Hearst works on ransom

SAN FRANCISCO—Heartened by his kidnaped daughter's latest words and her abductors' willingness to compromise, publisher Randolph A. Hearst worked Sunday on the "details and mechanics" of a massive food giveaway.

The family was obviously relieved by a tape recording delivered Saturday in which Patricia Hearst, 19, assured them she was being well treated by members of the terrorist Symbionese Liberation Army.

## Government to shift gas allocations

WASHINGTON—Deputy energy chief John Sawhill said Sunday the government will announce Tuesday a 1 per cent or 2 per cent shift in the allocation of gasoline designed to cut down on the "intolerable" lines for gas before March.

Sawhill said the Federal Energy Office (FEO) was preparing the reallocation plan so "those areas of the country that are really experiencing acute shortages" will have more of the scarce fuel.

## Scientists find 'Lost World' plant life

CARACAS—A scientific expedition that plunged into the "Lost World" jungles of the Venezuelan-Brazilian border area 10 days ago reported Sunday finding new plant life previously unknown to man at the bottom of a deep cave.

"We did not find any dinosaurs," David Nott, British journalist and mountain climber told UPI.

Nott said the first phase of the adventure had been completed without major setbacks.

## Challenge seen

WASHINGTON—Treasury Secretary George P. Shultz conferred with White House officials Sunday to determine whether the administration will challenge an order issued by the comptroller general to end Secret Service protection for former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew.

There were indications that the administration might for the first time challenge the authority of the comptroller general, head of the General Accounting Office (GAO), a congressional watchdog, to rule expenditures illegal.

## Mitchell trial to begin

NEW YORK—In what could be one of the most explosive trials on the current Watergate-tainted political scene, former Nixon Cabinet officer John N. Mitchell and Maurice H. Stans go before the bar Tuesday on charges of conspiracy, obstructing justice and perjury.

John W. Dean III, former White House counsel and President Nixon's chief Watergate accuser, is expected to testify against the pair. Others figuring in the case include two of Nixon's brothers and a nephew.

Dean is considered a crucial prosecution witness. The defense has tried unsuccessfully to have his testimony barred.

Mitchell and Stans, who headed up Nixon's re-election campaign in 1972, are the first cabinet officers indicted in 50 years. The trial will begin in a court room of Federal Courthouse on Foley Square.

Mitchell, 60, a former attorney general in

the Nixon administration, and Stans, 65, former commerce secretary, are accused of trying to influence a major federal investigation of millionaire financier Robert L. Vesco.

## ECU hearings set

RALEIGH—A three-day hearing on the controversial issue of expanding the one-year medical school at East Carolina University will highlight the activities in the North Carolina General Assembly this week.

Following two lengthy closed door sessions last week between proponents and opponents of the issue, legislative leaders announced they had been unable to reach a compromise with the University of North Carolina Board of Governors and slated public hearings on the issue for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

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# Change Isn't Necessarily Improvement

Do you have a gripe with the Daily Tar Heel? Who doesn't? You can't satisfy all the people all the time. But you sure can try.

And when you're trying, why should you be handicapped with a lack of journalistic knowledge? It's just one more obstacle to be overcome. WINSTON CAVIN has more practical experience in putting out a paper than any other person running for the editor of the Daily Tar Heel. And he has sound proposals for improving the Daily Tar Heel.

- 1. Improved Delivery. Any newspaper, good or bad, is worthless if you can't get a copy.
- 2. Improved Editorial Page. More intelligent comment, less frivolity. The edit page should be forum for everyone's ideas, not just those of the DTH staff.
- 3. Investigation Squad Winston Cavin will form a group of experienced, specialized reporters to investigate, in depth, issues that affect students, such as campus food service, on and off-campus housing, etc.
- 4. Formation of a news-cooperative with major N.C. universities as a means of providing news of other schools that may affect Carolina students.
- 5. Improved, more complete, coverage of state and local affairs.
- 6. Continued coverage of national & international news through the United Press International. Students shouldn't have to buy another newspaper every day to find out about outside events.
- 7. Expanded sports coverage, with more emphasis on minor sports, intramurals and professional sports.
- 8. Financial independence. It's been talked about for years and could become a reality under WINSTON CAVIN.

Winston Cavin is open to suggestions. Why handicap the Daily Tar Heel by electing an editor with little or no experience? Winston Cavin has plans for improving The Daily Tar Heel and the experience and know-how to get them done.

# Cavin For The DTH

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This Week's Feature Books for Historians By lucky chance we have three good scholars' collections of historical material. If you're interested in history, don't miss this overflowing barrel of temptation! THE OLD BOOK CORNER 137A East Rosemary Street Opposite CNB Plaza Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514

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PEANUTS YOU DIDN'T SEND ME A VALENTINE THIS YEAR... WELL, I GUESS THERE'S ALWAYS NEXT YEAR, ISN'T THERE? OR THE YEAR AFTER? DOONESBURY WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THE CLAR'S ANNOUNCEMENT MINE? I DUNNO. I GUESS HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING... EVEN IF IT'S ONLY A CHANGE IN TERMS - FROM "CRISIS" TO "PROBLEM" - I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE RELIEF. I'LL SAY. THERE WERE HUNDREDS OF 'EM. THE MID-YEAR SURE HAS BEEN EASY COMING. THE AN AMAZING CONGRESSIONAL YEAR FOR CRISSES. THE GREAT CRISIS. NOT TO MENTION A DANDY CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS! OH, RIGHT. THAT WAS A CLASSIC.