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'Damn, dumb Gray,' says Nixon

Comments in confidence not so confidential

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the privacy of his own office, President Nixon commented on his friends and foes with the confidence of a man who knows his remarks won't get back to his subject. Now they have.

The two men closest to the President, H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, "are good guys," Nixon told Asst. Atty. Gen. Henry E. Petersen. Petersen was trying to convince the President that evidence against the pair was mounting and could result in their being indicted.

If Haldeman were involved, Nixon told Atty. Gen. Richard G. Klendienst, "Bob would tell me. He's a don't-give-a- expletive kind of a guy anyway, and Ehrlichman would tell me, too."

But two others close to Nixon, Charles W. Colson and John N. Mitchell, became subjects of suspicion and contempt as the Watergate scandal exploded into the headlines.

The President suspected that Colson, who had been his special counsel, knew more about Watergate than he let on. Nixon barred him from a private strategy session because he was a "name-dropper" who "talks too much."

Mitchell, who had been Nixon's law partner, attorney general and campaign manager, suddenly became a target both for Watergate investigators and the White House.

Nixon, Haldeman and Ehrlichman worked out a scheme that hopefully would result in the indictment of Mitchell and the end of the Watergate probe.

"Look," Nixon told Haldeman, "if they get a hell of a big fish, that is going to take a lot of the fire out of this thing on the cover-up and all that sort. If they get the President's former law partner and attorney general, you know."

Another White House aide, *Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler*, "is a good man" able to deal with the "damn press," Nixon said.

Some others in the lower levels of the Nixon administration received less generous mention.

Acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray III, was a constant Nixon target as his Senate confirmation hearings turned into an investigation of the administration's Watergate probe.

"Oh, he's dumb," the President said at one point. And since thereafter the director was referred to as "damn, dumb Gray."

Vice chairman Howard H. Baker Jr. of the Senate Watergate committee apparently got presidential advice on how to run a congressional investigation. Nixon wasn't sure he understood.

"The point that you ought to make to Baker," Nixon told Haldeman, "I tried to get it through that thick skull. His skull is not that thick but tell Kleindienst in talking to Baker . . . the way to have a successful hearing and a fair one is to run it like a court: no hearsay, no innuendo!"

In later references, the President referred to Baker's committee as a "kangaroo court."

Warned by Dean that the "hand of the Kennedys is behind this whole hearing," the President observed:

" . . . Yes, I guess the Kennedy crowd is just laying in the bushes waiting to make their move."

McElroy named top Naval ROTC instructor in nation

Maj. James R. McElroy of TAMU's Naval-Marine detachment has been named the top Naval ROTC instructor in the U. S.

He will be honored May 16 in Washington, D. C. The 1974 Col. Leo A. Codd Memorial Award will be presented to him at the 56th meeting of the American Defense Preparedness Association.

Six NROTC instructors each in 54 units across the U. S. are eligible for the award, noted Col. C. E. Hogan, professor of naval science.

The top instructor award is given annually in all three military services. Second and third places in the Navy selection went to instructors at the University of Oklahoma and Vanderbilt University.

The Codd award consists of a plaque and $300 in U. S. savings bonds.

Col. Hogan noted the award to Maj. McElroy his unusual significance for TAMU. The recently formed NROTC unit is the youngest in the U. S.

"Maj. McElroy is a fiercely dedicated Marine whose soldierly conduct and professional competence are faultless," the PNS credited. "He holds the genuine respect of all those who know and observe him."

A 36-year-old veteran of two Vietnam tours, Maj. McElroy has nearly 14 years service. He joined the Naval ROTC unit at TAMU last August when it was formed.

The Birmingham, Ala., native serves as senior naval instructor on the teaching staff and Marine officer instructor. He also chairs the PNS Naval scholarship recommendation committee, the Naval Science Institute screening board, academic review board and awards board.

Maj. McElroy is primary advisor to the two-time state champion Fish Drill Team, advises and counsels 300 NROTC midshipmen and serves as military advisor to the Naval battalion in the Cadet Corps.

The recipient of two Silver combat "V" and two Purple Hearts, he came here after graduation from the Armed Forces Staff College at Norfolk, Va. The officer served his first Vietnam tour with the First Marine Division in 1966-67. Maj. McElroy returned in 1970-71 as advisor to the Vietnam Marine Corps.

Other assignments have taken McElroy to Camp LeJeune, N. C., the Naval Ammunition Depot at Charleston, S. C., Quantico, Va., as a company commander and basic instructor and to the Department of Defense in Washington, D. C.

McElroy was commissioned through Officer Candidate School at Quantico after graduation in 1960 from the University of the South, Sewanee, Tenn.

The officer, his wife Brownley and two sons reside at 1209 King Arthur Circle.

Seriousness cause of lost creativity

"One small idea that brings joy is just as important as penicillin," said scientist, inventor and author, Dr. Athelstan Spilhaus during a seminar here.

Spilhaus is TAMU's first Visiting University Professor. He is renowned for his work in oceanography and meteorology. Among Spilhaus' inventions are the bathythermograph and the Spilhaus space clock which tells time, tides, phases of the moon and other planetary data.

Spilhaus attributes his innovativeness to not having any formal schooling until he was 10 years old.

"That way I got a considerable jump on the rest of the people," he claimed. "I avoided the deadening effect of school which comes from the mass methods and ingraining of uniform mediocrity."

He advised the students in their occupations to avoid the dreadful kind of sameness that makes it easier for administrations with patterns. Spilhaus noted that school systems destroyed the joy of problem solving by using devices like memorizing the multiplication tables.

"Facts are to be looked up when you need them and then forgotten," he said. "They should teach fundamentals with the joy of the art associated with it."

"What you've got to do is not distinguish between play and work because once you start taking yourself and your work seriously you loose your creativity," he continued. Spilhaus related how his space clock evolved out of a tide clock he made just for fun for his wife at their Cape Cod home so she could reorganize her day around the ocean activities of their children.

"You have to start early in life," he said of creativity, "thinking there must be a better way of doing things. You need to develop a way of looking at the world. Ask yourself why can't we do something more elegantly or beautifully. Use fewer moving parts and less crud. The most elegant invention in the world was the sun dial which has only one moving part . . . the sun."

Murder arrests continue

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Two black men were arrested today in the Zebra street shootings in which 12 whites have been killed and six others wounded in the last six months, police said. More arrests were expected.

Chief of Inspectors Charles Barca said J. C. Simon, 29, and Larry Green, 22, were arrested about 5 a.m. in connection with the random and unprovoked attacks that have terrified the city.

"They're charged with the so-called Zebra murders and conspiracy to commit murder. We are anticipating more arrests," Barca said.

He would not give details on the arrests or provide more information about the men.

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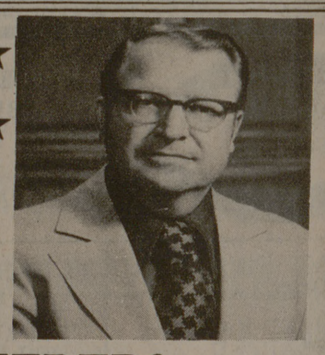

WAS REFORM REALLY NEEDED?

Lloyd Joyce, candidate for the House of Representatives, feels that it was . . . and still is! His opponent, Mr. Presnal . . . felt otherwise.

Mr. Presnal voted AGAINST LOBBY CONTROL because he stated in the House Journal, he found the bill unconstitutional!

Mr. Presnal voted FOR S.B. 209, the measure authorizing over 10% interest on HOME MORTGAGE LOANS. He did not question the constitutionality of this bill!

Mr. Presnal voted FOR H.B. 143, the Personnel Injury Insurance measure which **automatically** increased your automobile insurance premiums. He likewise did not question the constitutionality of that measure!

Lloyd Joyce could not tell you if a bill is constitutional or not. But he can tell if HIS CONSTITUENTS WANT OR DO NOT WANT THAT LEGISLATION! That's what Lloyd Joyce wants to do in Austin . . . to vote the views and opinions of our district. Let's continue our efforts for Reform. Vote on Saturday, May 4th for Lloyd Joyce.

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