

SENSITIVE

PAGE 212 SITUATION(S) MESSAGE(S) LISTING

DATE 09/23/73//266

SITUATION: HAK TRIP  
SUBJECT CATEGORY: TOHAK

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

MESSAGE:

IMMEDIATE

O 210816Z OCT 73

FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 48

TO PETER RODMAN FOR DR. KISSINGER

UNCLAS SECTION TWO OF TWO WH32578

TOHAK 48

TAPES (CONT)

"TRICKY," SAYS KRAFT ON RN COMPROMISE WHICH IS "APT TO GET WORST OF W/GATE OFFENDERS OFF SCOT FREE....IT WON'T WASH...IT'S NOT FOR RN TO PICK AND CHOOSE HOW TAPES SHOULD BE MAKE AVAILABLE...IF HE GETS AWAY W/THIS, HE'LL HAVE MADE BIGGEST SCORE YET IN HIS LONG VENDETTA AGAINST SPIRIT OF FAIR PLAY," SAYS KRAFT WHO CLAIMS WHEN STENNIS WAS REFUSED BY COX AS SOLE-- AND ONE "ENTIRELY PARTIAL TO NAT'L SECURITY SIDE OF ARGUMENTS, UN-FAMILIAR W/WGATE AND WEAK" -- WRIGHT PICKED UP TALKS W/COX DROPPED BY AG AND DID SO IN WAY THAT SEEMED TO THREATEN COX WOULD BE FIRED,

MANSFIELD SAID FIRING OF COX WAS "OUTRAGEOUS," BUT DECLINED TO COMMENT ON IMPEACHMENT EFFORTS,

ERVIN WAS ASKED IF ACTION INCREASES POSSIBILITY OF IMPEACHMENT AND THE SEN REFRAINED FROM ANSWERING,

BAKER REFUSED TO COMMENT ON IMPEACHMENT BUT SAID RN ACTION "MAY MAKE IT DOUBLY IMPORTANT THAT COMM HAVE ACCESS TO TAPES AND CONTINUE INVESTIGATION, IT MAY MEAN WE'LL HAVE TO LOOK MORE THOROUGHLY INTO MATTER IN ABSENCE OF SPECIAL PROSECUTOR...PERCY

\*\*\*\*\* WHSR COMMENTS \*\*\*\*\*

SECFL

PSN:013189

DTG:210816

TOR:2941354

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DOESN'T BELIEVE ANY AG COULD BE CONFIRMED UNLESS HE AGREED TO  
 APPOINT A NEW AND INDT SPECIAL PROSECUTOR.

PACKWOOD SAID THERE WAS "NO JUSTIFICATION" FOR RN ACTION.  
 "OFFICE OF PRES DOES NOT CARRY W/IT A LICENSE TO DESTROY JUSTICE  
 IN US. HIS DEEDS ARE DISHONORABLE."

HECHLER (D-WVA) SAID "IMPEACHMENT MUST BE INITIATED AT EARLIEST  
 POSSIBLE MOMENT."

HUDNOT (R-IND): "IF RN GIVES IMPRESSION HE'S ABOVE THE LAW, HE'S  
 GOING TO HAVE IMPEACHMENT PROBLEM ON HIS HANDS OF CONSIDERABLE  
 MAGNITUDE."

FORD SAID RN'S COMPROMISE WAS "FAIR AND REASONABLE AND COX  
 SHOULD HAVE ACCEPTED IT." FORD SAID AG "WAS CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE,  
 HE OBVIOUSLY FELT HE HAD TO DO WHAT HE DID AND I REGRET HIS DOING IT,  
 I FEEL SAME ABOUT RUCK."

MANDEL SAID: "THIS RAISES FURTHER SUSPICIONS ABOUT MOTIVES  
 OF RN AND INTEGRITY OF HIS ADMIN. AG, RUCK AND COX STOOD FOR  
 DECENCY, HONESTY AND OPENNESS."

EDMUND BROWN JR. SAID: "ACTIONS PROVE ADMIN IS MORALLY BANKRUPT,  
 RN CAN AVOID CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS ONLY BE RESIGNING. NO PRES IN US  
 HISTORY HAS EVER BEEN SURROUNDED BY SO MUCH CORRUPTION AND ABUSE  
 OF POWER."

TUNNEY SAID: "RN HAS COMMITTED A MONSTROUS ACTION. HE IS NOW  
 OPENLY DEFYING ALL 3 BRANCHES.... RN IS PUTTING HIMSELF ABOVE LAW  
 AND THIS CAN ONLY MEAN GRAVEST POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES FOR HIMSELF."

BROOKE SAID "US IS HEADED ON TRAGIC COURSE. THANK GOD WE HAVE  
 GOOD MEN LIKE RICHARDSON AND RUCK WHO CAN STAND TESTS OF LAW AND  
 HONOR. I REGRET DISMISSAL OF COX, WHO WAS ABLE, HONORABLE AND  
 COURAGEOUS. THIS ACTION IS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE WHICH HOUSE SHOULD  
 CONSIDER TO BEGIN IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS."

EMK CALLED FIRING OF COX "A RECKLESS ACT OF DESPERATION BY  
 A PRES WHO IS AFRAID OF SUP CT, WHO HAS NO RESPECT FOR LAW AND  
 NO REGARD FOR MEN OF CONSCIENCE. IT'S OBVIOUS THAT RN IS BENT ON  
 MAINTAINING COVERUP AT ANY COST. BURDEN NOW ON HILL AND COURTS TO  
 NULLIFY THIS HISTORIC INSULT TO RULE OF LAW AND TO US SYSTEM OF  
 JUSTICE."

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"I THINK RN MOVED W/CONSIDERABLE COURAGE TO TRY AND BRING ABOUT RESOLUTION OF THIS TAPE DISPUTE," SAID CONALLY WHO FEELS PROSECUTION SHOULD HAVE BEEN IN JUSTICE ALL ALONG.

MUSKIE ENDORSED HOUSE INITIATION OF IMPEACHMENT, SAYING "WHAT RN HAS DONE THREATENS TO DESTROY OUR SYSTEM OF LAWS. IT SMACKS OF DICTATORSHIP."

REPS WALDIE, REID, STARK, (D-CALIF) KOCH, AND VANIK EITHER PROPOSED OR PREDICTED IMPEACHMENT,, CONYERS STOPPING SHORT OF URGING IMPEACHMENT, SAID HOUSE SHOULD INVESTIGATE "NUMEROUS ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT" CONCERNING RN AND AIDES.

BROOKE AND CASE ALSO SPOKE OF IMPEACHMENT. JOHN ANDERSON PREDICTED SUCH PROCEEDINGS WOULD BE FORTHCOMING NEXT WEEK SAYING "RN HAS PRECIPITATED A CONSTL CRISIS," ANDERSON SAID "RN ACTED IRRESPONSIBLY."

STARK, PREDICTING RN WOULD BE IMPEACHED OR RESIGN BY END OF THE YEAR, SAID "THE ROOF IS CAVING IN. IT WON'T TAKE MANY MORE ACTS LIKE THIS BEFORE REPUBLIC WILL RISE UP IN ARMS AND HILL WILL ACT."

SAID KOCH: "RN IS A LAW-BREAKER. IT'S THAT SIMPLE. HE'S SO TAKEN W/DOWN POWER, HE'LL GO TO ANY LENGTHS TO PROTECT WHAT'S ON THOSE TAPES...THIS IS US NOT CHILE."

"COX WAS DOING A FINE JOB. WE NEEDED HIM. IT'S A GREAT TRAGEDY AND A GREAT MISTAKE," SAID ERVIN.

NADER, HIS VOICE SHAKING WAS ANGER, SAYS UPI DEMANDED IMMEDIATE IMPEACHMENT AND URGED ALL CITIZENS TO WRITE, WIRE AND CALL MGS TO URGE PROCEEDINGS BEGIN. "RN IS ACTING LIKE A TYRANT, A MADMAN, OR BOTH. THIS IS MOST SERIOUS POLITICAL CRISIS IN US HISTORY. WE'LL SOON FIND OUT WHAT US (IS) MADE OF, WHETHER IT'LL STAND UP TO TYRANNY AND FIGHT IT OR TOLERATE IT AND SUCCUMB TO IT."

PARREN MITCHELL SAID RN ACTIONS "SUGGEST COMPLICITY ON PART OF RN THAT MIGHT SPUR HOUSE TOWARDS INQUIRY INTO IMPEACHMENT...WE CAN NO LONGER LIVE UNDER THE DICTATORIAL POWERS HE HAS ASSUMED..."

EDWARDS (D-CALIF): "I'M IN STATE OF SHOCK, AND I THINK RN SHOULD RESIGN...IT'D BE SO MUCH EASIER IF RN WOULD ADMIT HE HAS MADE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE, AND SHOULD AS GRACEFULLY AS POSSIBLE ROW OUT."

HART SAID "IT'S INCREDIBLE AND FRIGHTENING IN ITS PORTENT. I'M NOT SURE WHERE WE GO. COURTS HAVE TRIED TO GET A HANDLE ON IT AND NOW IT'S UP TO US."

TOWER: "ARRANGEMENT BY RN IS PROPER AND CALCULATED TO BRING W/GATE TO A CONCLUSION. WHENEVER A CABINET OFFICER CANNOT AGREE W/PRESS, IT'S INCUMBENT HE RESIGN."

CRANSTON: COX PLACED "LOYALTY TO LAW OF THE LAND ABOVE LOYALTY

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TO RN, IT'S SHARP CONTRAST TO JDE AND OTHERS INVOLVED IN WGate."  
 CLARK, D-IDWA: "ACTION HAS PUT US IN OUR GREATEST CONSTL CRISIS,"  
 WIGGINS (R-CALIF): "IF RNIS GOING TO BE PRES, HE'S GOT TO BE THE  
 BOSS."

RANGEL (D-NY): "NOMINATION OF FORD IS NOW MOOT. FIRST QUESTION  
 BEFORE JUDICIARY IS IMPEACHABILITY OF RN."

THONE (R-NEB): "COURT IS ENTITLED TO REVIEW THOSE TAPES."

SAXBE: "DAMNING PART IS RN OBVIOUSLY THOUGHT HE COULD CONTROL  
 AG AND COX. IT'S GOING TO THROW JUSTICE INTO A FUNK AGAIN AND IT'LL  
 TAKE SOME TIME TO GET THINGS BACK ON TRACK."

GOV THOMSON OF NH: "THIS IS A FORTUNATE TURN OF EVENTS. IT SHOWS  
 THAT, AT LAST, RN RECOGNIZES HIS ENEMIES AND IS FINALLY GOING TO DO  
 THE ONLY THING THAT CAN TO HELP US FIGHT BACK."

END OF TEXT

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