

Grapes . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

Some farm workers tried to tip over sheriffs' cars, Willmirth said, but were frightened away by deputies armed with shotguns.

"After about two weeks of this, your nerves are a little bit tight," he said. "So far our people have kept their cool and conducted themselves extremely well."

The arrests began last Wednesday when the UFW launched its latest tactic in its fight with the giant Teamsters Union for representation of field hands. The labor dispute started when grape growers in Southern California switched work contracts from the UFW to the Teamsters in April, and has moved northward along with staggered harvest season.

The jails of neighboring Kern County were so filled with arrested farm workers by late last week, that Superior Judge John Nairn waived bail requirements so the cells could be emptied.

At a rally later in the day in

Lodi, 130 miles north of Fresno, Chavez called for an investigation by U.S. Attorney General Elliott Richardson into allegations that a group of sheriff's deputies had beaten nine men they singled out as leaders.

He said the prisoners were beaten after a fire was started by other inmates in the jail. Among those injured, he said, was Mike Drake, a Los Angeles-based labor organizer for the Communications Workers of America.

Sheriff Willmirth said there was a small fire but it was in an area of the jail well away from where farm workers were locked up.

He strongly denied any prisoners were beaten, describing the charge as "garbage" designed to incite trouble. Willmirth said that a union-designated physician examined inmates Sunday morning and found no evidence of ill-treatment.

Nixon won't release tapes, plans Watergate offensive

CAMP DAVID, Md. (UPI) — President Nixon, described as deeply concerned that the Watergate scandal had eroded public confidence in his leadership, met again Sunday with two of his aides to discuss strategy for dealing with the crisis.

Nixon's chief of staff, Alexander Haig Jr., and Press Secretary Ronald Ziegler flew here by helicopter early in the afternoon and met with the President for just over two and a half hours to discuss Watergate and other issues, a spokesman said.

White House officials said the President was angry about the conduct of the televised Senate hearings on Watergate. He was said to believe the hearings had degenerated from a legitimate legislative inquiry into wrong-doing to character assassination of his former associates and a political attack on him personally.

They said the series of meetings he has held since his release from the hospital Friday were to develop a strategy for seizing the initiative on the issue which, despite public protestations to the contrary, they privately concede has virtually paralyzed the administration for the past several weeks.

He met with all his top aides in the White House Friday and on Saturday held an hour and a half session here with Haig, Ziegler and his two main Watergate lawyers, Fred Buzhardt and Leonard Garment.

This concern about dwindling of public confidence in the President appeared well founded. A

Gallup poll published Sunday showed a 5-point drop from a month ago in public approval of the way he is handling his job.

The most immediate problem he faces, according to the sources, is convincing the public that his decision not to furnish tapes of his conversations with Watergate suspects is based on his constitutional duty to protect the authority of the presidency and not an effort to cover up any personal involvement.

Nixon is scheduled to send a letter Monday to Sen. Sam Ervin, head of the Senate Watergate Committee, declining the committee's request for access to the tapes.

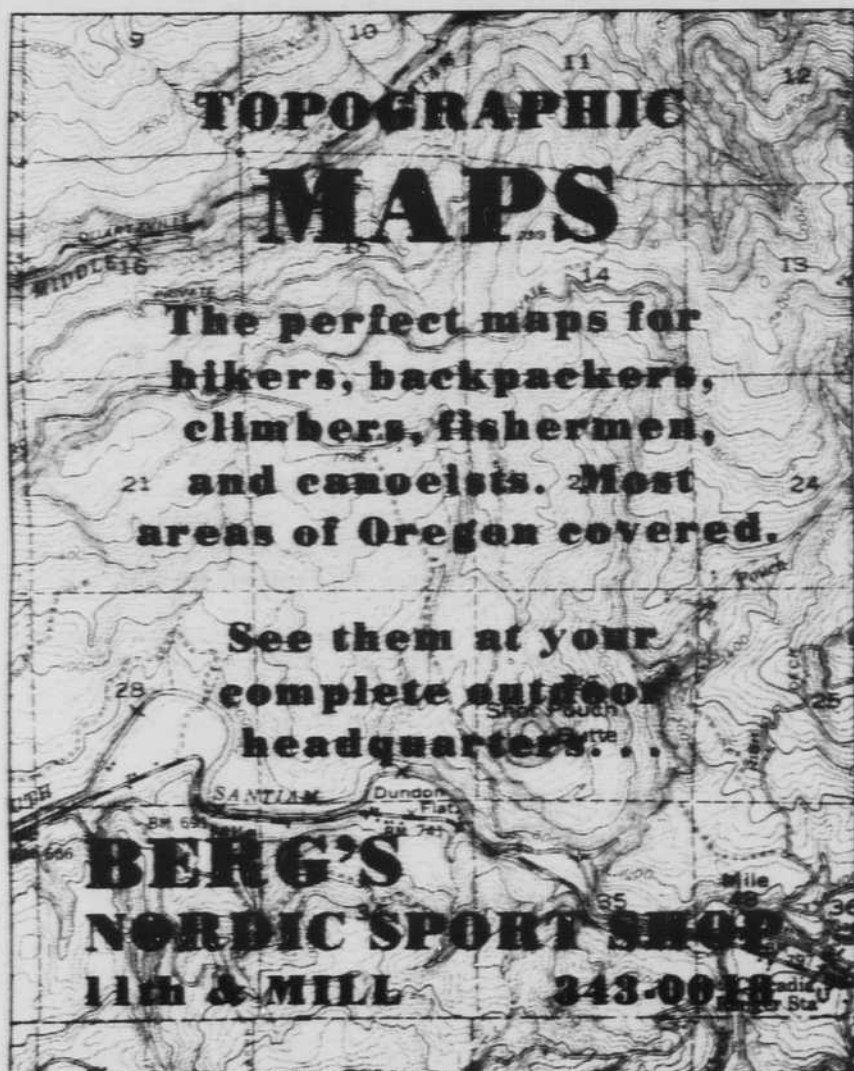
The President was spending the weekend here regaining his strength after an eight-day bout with viral pneumonia. With him were his wife Pat, their friend C.G. "Bebe" Rebozo, and the two White House doctors, Walter Tkach and William Lukash.

The Nixons' daughter, Julie, and her husband, David Eisenhower, were invited to Sunday dinner.

According to a presidential spokesman, the doctors examined Nixon both Saturday and Sunday and found "no signs of fatigue."

Deputy Press Secretary Gerald Warren said the President and Mrs. Nixon have taken leisurely walks through the woods around their rustic retreat despite rainy, overcast weather.

Nixon is scheduled to resume a normal White House workload Monday. The only requirement from his doctors is to take hour-long rest periods morning and afternoon.



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Congress continues investigations of alleged administration violations

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Congress, in an increasingly testy anti-administration mood, returns this week to continue its investigations of alleged deceptions and wrong-doing on the part of the administration. High on the agenda is Sen.

Henry Jackson's investigation of last year's multi-billion-dollar grain deal with the Soviet Union. Jackson's subcommittee has called Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz and Assistant Secretary Carroll Brunthaver to explain exactly how much they knew about the deal before it was completed and whether there was any mismanagement in its operation.

A Senate armed forces subcommittee, angry over deceptive information provided it by the Defense Department, plans to continue its investigation of the secret bombing of Cambodia at a time when the administration publicly was saying the United States had no military involvement there.

And yet another Nixon appointee — William Colby, his nominee as director of the Central Intelligence Agency — is in trouble as the Senate investigates Colby's and the agency's relationship to domestic intelligence-gathering operations.

Butz, appearing in a television interview Sunday, called the flap over the grain deal "a red herring . . . played up out of all proportion to its importance."

Even after several grain companies had advised the Agriculture Department that negotiations were under way, he said, "we didn't have any idea about the magnitude of the sale." Butz also defended the transaction as "a tremendously good

sale" that helped to lessen the U.S. balance of payments deficit.

Aiming for an Aug. 3 start on another vacation, both the House and Senate have a full agenda of controversial items to iron out first — with the knowledge their time off could be rudely interrupted, either by the President seeking to extend his authority to continue bombing Cambodia or by their own leadership, which promised it will not hesitate to call them back if necessary to attempt to override a Presidential veto.

One bill almost certain to face a veto is the war powers bill which was unlikely to be ironed out by conferees and given final approval by both houses 10 days before they adjourn. The House version requires congressional approval of war after 120 days, the Senate's, 30 days.

Also to be battled in conference was the farm bill which the House spent almost all of the past two weeks writing.

While the conferees are busy, the House has set aside almost the entire week to discuss ways of controlling President Nixon's power to impound appropriations and setting a ceiling on how much the administration can spend.

The Senate, aside from another full week of Watergate hearings, will concern itself on the floor with ways of limiting and controlling campaign spending.

On the House side, the Interior Committee is writing a bill to direct the interior secretary to allow the controversial trans-Alaska pipeline to be built without further delay. Proponents want that acted on before the recess and hope to complete the bill-writing process by Tuesday.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee wants to inquire whether the State Department misrepresented the Canadian government's position on a Canadian alternative to the trans-Alaska pipeline.

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