

UPI Roundup

White House lawyer earns jail term

WASHINGTON — Donald Segretti, the White House-hired lawyer who admitted playing dirty tricks on 1972 Democratic presidential contenders, was sentenced Monday to a six-month jail term which he described as a "fair sentence." The sentence was imposed by U.S. District Judge Gerhard Gesell, who added three years probation after the jail term. Segretti, 32, of California, could have received a maximum three years in jail for his guilty plea entered last Oct. 1 on three counts of violating federal election laws.

Ford asks Nixon to prove innocence

WASHINGTON — Rep. Gerald Ford completed Senate testimony on his fitness to become vice president Monday by urging President Nixon to use "any and all ways" to convince the public of his innocence of complicity in Watergate. The 60-year-old House Republican leader told a televised hearing of the Senate Rules Committee that he believed Nixon's declarations of innocence but many Americans do not. "There must be documents to prove it," he said.

Dean destroyed Watergate evidence?

WASHINGTON — Watergate prosecutors said Monday that former White House counsel John Dean found and destroyed evidence belonging to bugging conspirator Howard Hunt late last January after Hunt pleaded guilty in the plot. Assistant Special Prosecutor Richard Ben-Veniste told a federal court hearing that Dean had found the materials in a folder containing President Nixon's personal estate planning file — but he stressed to reporters later there was "no indication" Nixon ever saw the Hunt documents. The disclosure came at the opening of a hearing before Chief U.S. District Judge John Sirica on motions by Hunt and four of his co-conspirators to erase their convictions.

Calls grow for resignation

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Senate Republican Leader Hugh Scott said Monday he regretted that GOP colleague Edward Brooke had called for President Nixon's resignation. But he endorsed pleas for "full and complete disclosure" in the Watergate case.

Brooke, of Massachusetts, said Sunday Nixon should resign because he has "lost his effectiveness." He was the first Republican senator to propose this.

House Speaker Carl Albert, who would succeed Nixon if he stepped down now, said he "would not join the group who wants the President to resign." But he said it would be "absurd" to assume he was afraid to be President.

Asked about Brooke's statement, Scott told

reporters: "I regret it." He also denied reports that the Republican congressional leadership had discussed asking Nixon to resign — a proposal put forth by a growing number of congressmen and newspaper editorial writers.

But Scott in effect supported a proposal by Sen. Peter Dominick, (R-Colo.), that Nixon divulge all information sought by Watergate prosecutors. Scott told the Senate the administration should make "full and complete disclosure" and "give the people all the information and let them judge."

Republican Sens. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina and William Scott of Virginia defended the President in Senate speeches. "It is high time," said Thurmond, "that these people who are trying to disturb the President at every move, almost carrying on a vendetta...put up or shut up."

Mediterranean naval troops

US, USSR strengthen forces

By United Press International

The Soviet Union has sent up to 2,000 Marines to the Mediterranean in ships designed for amphibious landings, the Pentagon said Monday. But it said the Russian force was not "militarily significant" and should cause no alarm.

As the U.S. military disclosed the Soviet Marines' arrival, Egyptian ground troops backed by tanks attacked along the Suez Canal front and in isolated cases succeeded in penetrating Israeli lines. Talk of a new outbreak of fighting increased on both sides.

At the Pentagon, spokesman William Beecher said the Soviets usually keep two landing ships in the Mediterranean but that the number of troop-

carrying craft had been increased to eight, which could carry up to 2,000 marines or naval infantrymen.

"This is not viewed with alarm," he said. "They are not a substantial number if you're talking about a militarily significant force."

The United States normally maintains a one-ship, 1,800-man Marine landing force in the Mediterranean, but added a second 1,800-man contingent after fighting broke out between the Arabs and Israelis.

The Israeli military command in Tel Aviv said the Egyptians launched four attacks against Israeli lines — one of them a series of company-sized assaults lasting six hours. Israel protested the alleged violations to the U.N. truce force.

Analyst gives year's perspective

Nixon's landslide mandate

Analysis by ROBERT TAYLOR

WASHINGTON (UPI) — One year ago, a seemingly confident and very much in charge Richard Nixon outlined a second term program of open government dedicated to internal reform that would regenerate a spirit of national greatness.

Permissiveness and a government that promised more than could be delivered had brought the nation to "a very great spiritual crisis" in the late 1960s, as he saw it.

But a leaner government that asked more of its citizens would nurture "a new spirit of independence, self-reliance, pride, that I sense in the American people," Nixon said. positive about his intentions and commanding in his sense of leadership in that Nov. 5, 1972, interview.

His \$60 million re-election campaign was at an end with polls showing a landslide victory in store — a mandate to conduct government his way that could not be denied. He enjoyed the editorial support of over 70 percent of the nation's newspapers.

The polls were right. Two days later he received the greatest presidential electoral plurality in history, a sweep of every state but one, a percentage vote just a hair below the all-time record.

In the only poll that really counts, Nixon found his

leadership approved by better than 61 percent of the American voters.

The victory was impressive, but from Nixon's perspective not perfect.

Nixon promised on the 1972 election eve: "We are going to continue to play a great role in the world because that is the only way you can have the peace we talk about."

And he pledged that by boosting the forces of law and order, appointing stricter judges, he would deal with problems such as crimes and drugs that "came as a result of those of us who basically have a responsibility of leadership not recognizing that above everything else you must not weaken a people's character."

Further, he would trim a "bloated" bureaucracy he said was "too big" and "too expensive." "Massive hand-outs" to the people would stop, Nixon promised.

Nixon retired to Camp David in the fall and reshuffled if not actually reduced the top echelon bureaucracy. He ended American involvement in the Vietnam War, partially by renewed massive bombing of North Vietnam. The prisoners of war came home. A legislative program bearing his intentions to reduce or discard a host of federal social programs was prepared for Congress.

His midwinter mandate, as measured by opinion polls, was 68 percent — a near record high for any president.

And then came Watergate. In short order the nearly dormant scandal over the June, 1972, burglary and bugging of Democratic National

Headquarters flamed into charges of complicity in high White House circles and a million dollar cover-up.

Nixon was forced to dismiss his closest associates.

The Senate Watergate hearings began. Questions were raised about government expenditures on improvements of Nixon properties. The special Watergate prosecutor eyed illegal campaign contributions from milk men and others.

Nixon's two-time running mate, Spiro Agnew, pleaded no contest to income tax evasion in October and resigned.

On Aug. 17, public approval of Nixon's conduct of office, measured by a poll, stood at 38 percent. A study by Congressional Quarterly disclosed that while Nixon was able to keep Congress from running away from him, there had been deep erosion of support among usually dependable Republicans. Legislation by veto increased. It was easier to get one-third support against overriding a veto than majority support for the President's own program.

Nixon was forced again and again to explain and defend his role in Watergate. The court fight over his secret Watergate tapes went on. There was the firing of the special prosecutor; the necessity of giving in; the two missing tapes.

Sunday, the Gallup poll reported popular support for Nixon in mid-October stood at just 27 percent. Sixty percent of the public disapproved.

And Sunday, the New York Times joined a growing list of newspapers calling for Nixon's resignation.

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