

Mama Cass

Singer's death in London apparently caused by choking to death on sandwich

By ROBERT MUSEL

LONDON (UPI) — Mama Cass Elliot choked to death on a sandwich because she was apparently too tired to eat it properly after a round of parties to celebrate her elevation from pop star to international entertainer.

An autopsy on the 238-pound singer, whose body was found on the bed of her luxurious Mayfair apartment, showed Tuesday that she did not die from natural causes. A coroner's court official said this simply meant that her death was not caused by heart disease or any other illness. (Related story on page 10.)

"We think she choked to death," he said

of Mama Cass, who followed the end of her engagement at the London Palladium Saturday by going to Mick (Rolling Stones) Jagger's birthday party, then to a show business brunch Sunday and after that to a cocktail party in her honor.

By the time she got home, other guests said, she was tired and sleepy. But she got herself a sandwich and sat up in bed to eat it with a soft drink as beverage.

The singer's doctor, Anthony Greenburg, told newsmen: "I think the post-mortem will probably show that she died as a result of choking on a sandwich while lying in bed and inhaling her own vomit."

It is mandatory in British law to hold an

inquest when the exact cause of death is not known and the coroner's court will convene Wednesday for the purpose of formally identifying the 33-year-old star of the former Mamas and Papas group.

Coroner Gavin Thurston will then adjourn the inquest pending laboratory tests which will pinpoint the cause of death and establish whether any drugs were present.

Miss Elliot once said of her first days as a star: "I overdid it. Drugs, booze, the lot."

But friends believe that she had given up these early habits.

Prof. Keith Simpson, the Home Office

pathologist who conducted the autopsy declined to speculate on the cause of death until tests are completed.

Miss Elliot considered her engagement at the Palladium, the last world capital of vaudeville, as vital to her solo career and she was exuberant, her manager said, when the closing Saturday night audience gave her a standing ovation.

With lipstick she scrawled on the star dressing-room mirror — for Debbie Reynolds who was to follow her in Tuesday night:

"If they are half as nice to you as they were to me — you'll have the best time of your life."

Ignoring of subpoenas

Panel by 21-17 vote approves 3rd article

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Pennsylvania warned that, if the committee did not assert its constitutional power of impeachment, including the right to demand relevant evidence, "we shall be unleashing a presidency which has no limitations. . . . We shall be creating a dictator."

McClory sponsored the third article, accusing Nixon of "stonewalling" a committee of the House that has sole power to investigate wrongdoing and to recommend a president's impeachment.

The vote Tuesday demanding Nixon's impeachment, trial and removal from office for defying committee subpoenas in its impeachment inquiry saw the impeachment coalition lose the support of Republicans Thomas F. Railsback of Illinois, Hamilton Fish Jr. of New York, M. Caldwell Butler of Virginia, William S. Cohen of Maine and Harold V. Froehlich of Wisconsin.

Railsback warned that the committee was engaging in "political overkill" by pressing the so-called "contempt of Congress" issue. Rep. Delbert Latta, R-Ohio, a staunch foe of impeachment, called it a "dangerous precedent."

The five GOP defectors had voted with the committee majority twice previously, when the 38-member panel voted Saturday, 27 to 11, for Nixon's impeachment for obstructing justice in the Watergate cover-up and by 28 to 10 Monday for abusing his powers of office to violate the constitutional rights of private citizens.

The first vote Saturday night, however, assured that Nixon would be the first president since 1868, and only the second in American history, to face impeachment proceedings on the House floor.

In supporting his proposed indictment of Nixon for defying four committee tape subpoenas, McClory and some Democrats argued that the impeachment provision of the Constitution would be a dead letter should Congress permit Nixon to decide what evidence he could withhold.

Rep. Charles E. Wiggins, R-Calif., said "those who voted for the first two articles cannot have their cake and eat it, too." He said it was inconsistent to vote for impeachment twice on the basis of evidence and then claim Nixon must be impeached because the evidence was inadequate.

Other Republicans said the committee should have joined Watergate special prosecutor Leon Jaworski in taking the subpoena issue to the Supreme Court for a decision. But McClory and his backers said the House's constitutional impeachment powers, and its right to evidence, were unchallenged.

"The power of impeachment given Congress must be considered absolute," said Rep. Wayne Owens, D-Utah. "Congress must say to future presidents that impeachment is automatic if the President stonewalls Congress and refuses to yield evidence."

The second impeachment article, approved Monday night, charged Nixon with broad misuse of federal agents and agencies.

Compared to Saturday's grim, tear-evoking drama, the roll call on the second article was almost anticlimactic. Throughout a day of sometimes desultory, sometimes barbed debate, impeachment advocates had easily turned back the maneuvers of Nixon's defenders.

"There is no joy in removing a President," said Rep. Jack Brooks, D-Tex., but

"it is essential to remove from the body politic any president who threatens to destroy the system."

The second article charges that Nixon personally or through subordinates attempted to obtain secret Internal Revenue Service files and to audit political foes; wiretapped government employees and private citizens; misused such agencies as the FBI and Secret Service, and created the special White House unit, the plumbers, which engaged in illegal activities.

Hours before Monday night's vote, the committee's ranking Republican said in an interview that he now believes the full House probably will vote impeachment.

The comments of Rep. Edward Hutchinson of Michigan, one of the President's foremost defenders on the panel of lawyers, contrasted sharply with Nixon's prediction that he will win vindication from the House.

Meanwhile, U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica set 10 a.m. EDT Friday for sentencing former White House counsel John W. Dean III, the President's chief Watergate accuser who pleaded guilty in October to one count of conspiracy to obstruct justice. The maximum penalty would be five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Demo Byrd favors Senate trial telecasts

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate deputy Democratic leader Robert C. Byrd said Tuesday that broadcast coverage of a Senate impeachment trial would enable the public to see and judge for themselves.

"It is imperative that the American people have confidence in the justice, the fairness and the correctness of the decision," the West Virginian told the Senate.

His remarks were made as Sen. James L. Buckley, Con-R., N.Y., said it appears reasonable to prepare for the possibility that the House may soon vote a bill of impeachment against President Nixon.

Byrd said it appears that any hope the

Senate would be spared the "trauma" of an impeachment trial is coming to an end.

He said that later in the day, he and other senators would introduce a resolution to allow a trial of the President to be broadcast by radio and television.

However, Byrd said he hoped the Senate Rules Committee, to which the resolution is to be referred, would set rules to minimize any problems arising from the broadcast coverage.

He said that unless present Senate rules are changed, any Senate debate during impeachment proceedings would be in closed session. This would limit broadcast coverage

to the trial itself.

Byrd said that objections that TV coverage would create a circus atmosphere and cause senators to play to the cameras "have no basis in fact."

The Senate, in its first formal action to prepare for a possible impeachment trial of Nixon, adopted a resolution Monday directing its Rules Committee to check on whether existing rules need revision.

Sen. Charles H. Percy, R-Ill., backed Byrd's proposal for television and radio coverage. He said it is important that the American people and the whole world share in the proceedings.

Late sports

Tuesday's Major League Line Scores
National League

	100	000	100	2-4	6	0
Montreal	010	000	100	2-4	6	0
Chicago	010	000	100	1-3	7	4

10 Innings
Renko, Taylor (8), Montague (9) and Foote; Reuschel, Zumora (10), La Roche (10) and Stedmaszcek, Swisher (9).
W—Montague, 3-3. L—Reuschel (10-8).

OSLO (AP) — Rick Wohlhuter of the United States Tuesday established a 1,000-meter world track record in the time of two minutes and 13.9 seconds, clipping 2.1 seconds from the old record set last year by David Malan of South Africa with 2.16 in Munich.

President wants portions of tapes withheld

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Warren said Nixon spent much of the morning personally listening to tapes in the Lincoln sitting room at the White House. They were delivered in the afternoon by White House lawyers to Sirica in a metal suitcase 15 minutes before the 4 p.m. deadline.

Warren said the President has determined that he will file claims that Jaworski should be denied parts of the tapes on the grounds of national security or executive privilege.

Warren said "there will be a few" such instances but added, "I am not prepared to discuss what these may be."

Under terms of an 8-0 Supreme Court ruling last Wednesday, Sirica eventually is to receive tapes and memoranda covering 64 presidential conversations, then screen them for material he deems relevant for Jaworski's purposes.

The special prosecutor subpoenaed the tapes for use as evidence in the Sept. 9 trial of six former White House and Nixon re-election campaign aides charged in connection with the Watergate cover-up.

Warren said he is not certain whether Nixon's objections to giving Jaworski some of the material on the first 20 tapes will be based on executive privilege or national security grounds, or both.

Warren reported that Nixon worked primarily alone at listening to tapes but that the reels were "set up for him" by an aide.

Asked why a technician was not present to make certain Nixon did not "push the wrong button" and erase some of the material, Warren said, "All precautions are being taken to see that this will not occur."

He said the President's chief Watergate defense attorney, James D. St. Clair, and members of St. Clair's staff also were lis-

tening to subpoenaed tapes in order to carry out a provision of the Supreme Court order that the tapes be accompanied by a White House analysis and index of their content.

When a newsman asked about the possibility that some of the tapes might contain gaps, Warren said, "I'm not saying there are gaps on these tapes."

However, he said he would remind newsmen of what he termed "the rather primitive nature of the taping system" Nixon installed and has since dismantled.

It is the White House aim to make all the subpoenaed tapes and materials "available as soon as possible," Warren said.

Responding to questions dealing with impeachment proceedings, Warren said Nixon's "confidence is firm" that the House will vote against requiring him to stand trial before the Senate.

Warren also was asked about a published

report that some House Republicans are discussing the possibility of urging Nixon to demand a prompt pro forma impeachment vote in the House and an immediate trial in the Senate.

Proponents of the plan reportedly feel that Nixon would gain from such a move by allowing the issue to go to trial in the Senate without the added impetus of an overwhelming House vote against him.

Warren said Nixon and his aides expect the House to weigh all evidence carefully before acting.

The House is scheduled to begin debating articles of impeachment in mid-August, with a majority vote needed to send the question to trial in the Senate. A two-thirds vote would be needed in the Senate for conviction and removal from office.

"We do not believe the House should shirk its constitutional responsibility," Warren said.