

Nixon yields damaging material

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the best interests of the nation and himself (Related stories on pages 6 and 8).

"Portions of the tapes . . . are at variance with my previous statements," Nixon said in a written statement issued by the White House, adding "this was a serious act of omission for which I take full responsibility and which I deeply regret."

The transcripts were of three conversations he had with then White House staff chief H. R. Haldeman on June 23, 1972 six days after five men were arrested for breaking into Democratic national headquarters in the Watergate complex.

In a two-page statement, Nixon said he did not realize at the time the implications the three conversations he had on that day with Haldeman might have.

"As a result, those arguing my case as well as those passing judgment on the case, did so with information that was incomplete and in some respects erroneous," Nixon said.

Nixon said that since the Supreme Court

ordered him 12 days ago to turn over the tapes to Sirica, he himself listened to a number of them and found it "clear that portions . . . of these June 23 conversations are at variance with certain of my previous statements."

"The June 23 tapes clearly show, however, that at the time I gave those instructions (that the FBI should be alerted to coordinate with the CIA to assure that the investigation not expose national security matters) I also discussed political aspects of the situation.

"I was aware of the advantages this course of action would have with respect to limiting possible public exposure of involvement by persons connected with the re-election committee."

He also said, "Whatever mistakes I made in the handling of Watergate, the basic truth remains that when all the facts were brought to my attention, I insisted on a full investigation and prosecution of the guilty. I am firmly convinced that the record, in its entirety, does not justify the ex-

treme step of impeachment and removal of a president. I trust that as the constitutional process goes forward, this perspective will prevail."

Deputy press secretary Gerlad L. Warren said the White House would release full transcripts of the three conversations later in the day but said there would be no further public comment during the day.

He said the decision to release the three new tapes was made Monday morning but had been discussed at Camp David during the weekend while Nixon met with his top aides.

"There is nothing I can add at this time," Warren said.

Nixon said his personal review of other subpoenaed tapes has, "so far, shown no other major inconsistencies."

"While I have no way at this stage of being certain that there will not be others, I have no reason to believe that there will be," he said.

"I recognize that this additional matter I am now furnishing may further damage

my case, especially because attention will be drawn separately to it rather than to the evidence in its entirety," Nixon said.

He recalled that on June 23, 1972, he directed the FBI to coordinate with the CIA to see whether any covert CIA activities would be compromised by a full FBI investigation of Watergate.

Nixon said that after the CIA reported back to acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray III that the FBI would not be compromised, Nixon called Gray on July 6 and "told him to press ahead vigorously with his investigation, which he did."

Meanwhile, House members began listening to the first of 19 tape recordings being made available to them by the House Judiciary Committee, but attendance at the first session Monday morning was sparse.

Only about 25 congressmen showed up at the first opportunity to hear the recordings in an area equipped with tables and ear-phones for the purpose. Attendance was expected to pick up as members returned to Washington from the weekend.

Gang war victim

Aide to Mafia boss Gallo killed in Brooklyn temple

NEW YORK (UPI) — A 31-year-old reputed aide to Mafia chieftain Albert "Kid Blast" Gallo was shot to death Sunday as dozens of persons looked on at a fund-raising gambling session in a Brooklyn synagogue.

Detectives said most witnesses scattered after the shooting of Stephen Cirillo about 2 a.m. near the dice table in the crowded basement of Congregation B'Nai Israel.

Police said they believed that the shooting stemmed from a violent internal struggle for power for the Mafia group once led by Joey Gallo, who was shot to death on Manhattan's Lower East Side two years ago.

Cirillo, who reputedly aligned himself with Albert, Joey's brother, was believed to be the eighth victim in the Brooklyn gang warfare between the Gallo gang and

factions loyal to the reputed crime family formerly headed by Joseph Colombo.

Al Gallo reportedly is in hiding.

Although there were at least 75 gamblers in the room, police said when they arrived the only persons present were Cirillo's wife Joann, 29, who said she didn't see the shooting, and an unidentified man who would only say that he "heard something that sounded like firecrackers."

Cirillo's body was found face up in the litter of overturned furniture and debris caused by the gamblers in their frenzy to leave the basement before the authorities arrived. The victim also was bleeding from a leg wound which may have been caused by a second shot, police said.

"Nobody was there when we got in," a police spokesman said, "and right now we have no eyewitnesses."

Building collapse . . .

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leg on anyone I can wriggle a fireman down to."

The 60-by-150 foot section of the concrete and steel building collapsed in the morning. Officials theorized that the dozens of cars on the roof were too heavy for the six-inch-thick slab of concrete supporting them.

"It came down with a deafening roar," said Dennis Fitzgerald, an agent with the antidrug agency.

"I saw the building coming down the first thing I thought was that they were demolishing it," said Steven Epstein, who was walking nearby.

"Then I saw a guy trying to climb out of

a car and realized the building had collapsed," he said.

Ted Swift, a spokesman for the agency's Miami office, said normally there are 125 to 150 people who work in the building. He said the corner that collapsed was the location of a processing room and a laboratory.

Although standing three stories high, the 60-by-150 foot building actually contained only two floors.

Ronald Nayer, acting director of the Miami Building Department, said the structure was built in 1925 and underwent a full engineering inspection in 1968, at which time it was approved to house the drug administration.



Fatal motorcycle stunt

Bob Pleso of Ocala, Fla., is in midair after his motorcycle struck the 20th car in a row of 30 during a stunt jump at Phenix City, Ala. Pleso, who was attempting to break the world record of

21 cars, was taken to a hospital, where he died of internal injuries. Pleso was trying to surpass the motorcycle-stunt feat of daredevil Evel Knievel, who has set the top records. — AP photo

Death of 'Mama' Cass is ruled heart attack

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ager Allan Carr, she was "more nervous than normal."

On closing night July 27, the audience at the vaudeville theater gave her a standing ovation, and she was happy, though very tired, when she left to attend a couple of receptions, Carr said.

Summarizing evidence from friends and associates that Miss Elliot often was tired and breathless and wanted to go to bed early, as she did the night of July 28, coroner Gavin Thurston said the star had been under "emotional and physical strain" during her two weeks at the Palladium.

"The performances here could have been the last straw," he said.

Miss Elliot, who skyrocketed to fame in the late 1960s with the Mamas and Papas, died about seven hours before she was found, the coroner's report said. Friends said they thought she was asleep and didn't want to disturb her after the whirlwind weekend.

Dot McLeod, the singer's 23-year-old secretary, finally decided to investigate after Miss Elliot had not stirred for "an unusually long time."

Simpson said he did not find anything blocking her mouth or throat, an apparent

reference to speculation the singer choked on a ham sandwich found beside the body.

"There was a great deal of fatty infiltration and degeneration of her organs, tissues and heart muscles," he testified. "She had plainly had a heart attack that developed rapidly."

Testimony indicated Miss Elliot may have died in her sleep. American dancer Joe Croyle, who was staying at the singer's apartment, said he had earlier heard her snoring and took care not to wake her since she needed rest.

The singer was due to launch a five-week tour of British nightclubs when she died.

"Mama" Cass's manager, Carr, testified that her weight had been a problem and of concern to her.

"She always seemed to be on a diet of some kind or other, always losing and gaining weight," he said.

"Her performance would require a lot of effort and a lot of rest in between acts — probably more than other people," Carr said. "She would get out of breath more easily than other people."

He said the Baltimore-born singer, whose real name was Ellen Naomi Cohen, was nervous before the Palladium run but "very happy" with her reception.