

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 8, 1973

EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR: LEN GARMENT
FROM: DAVE GERGEN *DG*
SUBJECT: Watergate Cauldron

According to our sources, here is what's brewing in the press now:

-- In 1970 and 1971, the WH obtained personal records on leading Democratic contenders from the FBI. They were supplied by Mardian, sometimes directly to Hunt and Liddy. Military records were also obtained from the Defense Department. Among those floating around was Eagleton's medical record, which JE had a copy of (perhaps before the Democratic convention). This is a Post story which seems close to publication.

-- The WH also obtained confidential materials from the Secret Service men who were covering the candidates. One report -- never used -- was on an alleged McGovern girlfriend.

-- The Post is also investigating an alleged link between Kleindienst and Byrne. They think that had a great deal to do with his resignation.

-- They're also interested that Dean seems to be in a race with the prosecutors: if he can tell his story early enough to the Senate, hiding behind "use immunity", perhaps he can poison the court case before they have strong evidence on him.

-- Most surprising of all is a report that the President has spoken to intimates about the possibility of resigning. They've picked this up from two sources.

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Their latest estimates on hearings, indictments, trials, etc.: the indictments are several weeks away, perhaps a matter of months; trials are likely to be split up; the entire process could easily run 18 months (running smack into '74 elections).

They also report that more sources are coming forward each day in an almost evangelistic way. Apparently they want to purge themselves, even if it means telling wholly fabricated stories.