



# John Kerry, President

## John Kerry and the First Five Months of 1971— Some Clues to His Presidency

by Edward Sanders

John Kerry was very active in anti-war activities in 1971. In late January/early February he affected powerfully by the Winter Soldier Hearings in Detroit, sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans Against the War, where he heard horrific true stories of rape, mutilation and slaughter from veterans. In the spring, Kerry gave famous testimony before a Senate Committee in Washington during the VVAW action known as Dewey Canyon 3. Kerry also joined around 700 fellow vets and tossed away his service ribbons in a famous ceremony at the Capitol as part of Dewey Canyon 3.

The first five months of 1971 were very important to the history of maintaining legal democracy. In those months Nixon began in earnest his dirty tricks campaign against the Democrats, especially against Presidential frontrunner Senator Edmund Muskie, and began his taping system, thus setting the stage for his impeachment three years later.

Those five months also saw a continuation of strong and rising anti-war activities during a time that American troops were being gradually withdrawn from Vietnam while vast, civilian-mauling U.S. bombing continued.

### 1971

There were 203,184,772 humans in the United States  
according to the decennial census  
as the Nation entered '71

after the year of Kent State &  
the cross-nation revolt it caused plus  
revelations of chilotons of secret bombings  
for secret years over Laos & Cambodia  
by the military-industrial-bombopaths

A president named Richard Nixon  
was strutting in the time-track  
like a king in a play whose ending  
only Tiresias understood

& Tiresias was having his mail secretly opened  
by the CIA  
& his travels tracked by J. Edgar Hoover



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Congress had been kept in the clear control of the Democrats  
in the off year elections of 1970

243 to 192 in the House  
57 to 43 in the Senate

(& the Democrats would keep Congress in '72 also  
a fact which would have historic significance  
when Nixon's attempts to destroy fair democracy  
would come to light)

On the edges of power a fresh generation of ultrarightists was  
grrr-growling to tip the fate of a great nation

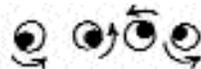
toward Obvious Empire

but that would take another 30 years

January 1

Chile nationalized its banks  
which must have caused many angry breath-sucks & grrrs  
in the board rooms of New York City  
& Dallas

Just as New York City bankers  
rolled their eyes in grrrr-hood



when Lumumba suggested the Congo wd nationalize  
its uranium mines back in '59

Nationalization— one of the true fuels  
of the Cold War

January 12 the

*All in the Family* television “pilot”  
which grew to a Saturday night audience of 25 million  
by ear’s end— these tales of a right wing prole, his victimized wife  
feminist daughter, and liberal center-left son  
with the lead actor for the part of Archie Bunker  
in real life a dedicated liberal

What does it ultimately mean?  
Everything is caught in the curl of  
Poseidon’s mane



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## **Hearings on Army Intelligence/Defense Intelligence Agency Spying on Civilians** January 17

There was a Senator from North Carolina named Sam Ervin  
who brought forth the best in American politics

Mr. Ervin set hearings in January on Army Surveillance  
of U.S. citizens & groups

to reveal how from mid-'67 through the fall of 1969  
the army spied on over 18,000 Americans  
& Ervin was not satisfied the spying had stopped

The spying was against, shudder shudder, "radicals"  
Nam opponents, and, shudder shudder, black militants

Americans' names were stored in Army computers

Martin Luther King, Jr., the National Association for the Advancement  
of Colored People, the Students for Democratic Society, the Black Panthers  
with the John Birch Society  
tossed in as a palliative  
were among those surv'd and investigated.

## **Nixon Staring with Malice at Edmund Muskie and Edward Kennedy & Eager to Fool with the Vote**

By late '70 & early '71  
two candidates had emerged  
it seemed to Tricky

Senators Edmund Muskie & Edward Kennedy  
(with Governor George Wallace of Alabama looming  
as he had in '68 as a threat to Nixon 'mong conservative racists)

though Nixon & his henchmen  
thought Mr. Muskie the strongest  
likely candidate  
especially after Chappaquiddick

For years Nixon had sicked his sleuths on hire  
to deprecate the Kennedys

An ex-cop named Anthony Ulasewicz had  
been hired in the spring of '69 to do



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political investigation work for Nixon

John Ehrlichman, the very morning of Chappaquiddick,  
wanted Ulasewicz to go to the Island  
and find out what was happening  
He spent a week, then months,  
investigating the accident

He took pictures and drew diagrams  
He posed as a reporter from various pubs  
including the Philadelphia *Inquirer*  
and asked questions on the site

Later during the eery months of Watergate  
Ace Nix-hench Charles Colson spoke of "black projects"  
he'd help coordinate  
out of Boston

"I did things out of Boston,' Colson said. 'We did some blackmail  
and.....my God, uh, uh, uh, I'll go to my grave before I ever disclose it.  
But, uh, we did a hell of a lot of things and never got caught.... you had  
one of the men who was in line at your Christmas tree lighting  
reception who ran 15 or 20 black projects in Boston,  
and that'll never be traced. No way. And I could under oath say  
I didn't know how it happened.... that's the way to do it.'"

from White House Tape January 2, 1973  
noted by Anthony Summers in his book subtitled *The Secret World  
of Richard Nixon* (see pages 405-406)

## **Muskie Surging in the Polls** early '71

Senator Muskie, with his strong record on the environment  
was rising above Nixon in the Harris polls:

January 43-40  
February 44-39  
April 47-39

Uh oh, thought Nix  
better set my democracy-crushers against the senator!

And as for George Wallace—would he ever go away!??

(Nixon had poured \$400,000 in secret cash  
left over from the '68 election  
to try to defeat George Wallace  
back in the 1970 Alabama gubernatorial contest



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The Nix-cash made it close  
but Wallace nosed out his opponent with 51.5 percent)

Meanwhile January 18

Senator George McGovern began his presidential campaign  
saying he'd withdraw all US troops from Nam

Nixon would meddle & break & dirty trick  
till all other candidates were crushed away

Around the time of his announcement  
Daniel Ellsberg went to McGovern  
wanting him to expose the Pentagon Papers to the public

McGovern was at first interested then  
shut Ellsberg off  
perhaps deciding not to trust him

but suggested he turn the Pentagon Papers over to  
*The New York Times* or *Washington Post*

## Some Songs for Early '71

Even though Nixon was sweating Muskie, Kennedy & Wallace  
there was the joy of melodious vowels  
on the airways

George Harrison's "My Sweet Lord"  
Neil Diamond's "Sweet Caroline"

& zooming up the charts to become  
#1 in March

the moaning beauty of Janis Joplin's "Me and Bobby McGee"

January 22

Nix's State of the Union speech  
in which he called for Revenue Sharing  
to pour at least \$16 billion back to states & communities

to check central power  
& aid the local

It was a drool-sop to conservatives & right wing localists  
with a kind of ersatz States' Rights patina

that the Federal government would wither



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& locality would rise

As for Revenue Sharing

it was a useful give to American towns & counties  
more than 39,000 of them

money to realize local dreams

The right wing snickered at R.S.  
partly because less-moolah'd towns and counties  
received more on a per-capita basis than wealthy ones.

(When Reagan came to power in '81  
wielding his genial ability to harm the less-moned

he announced he'd end Revenue Sharing  
and end it he did on Sept. 30, 1986)

January 25

Charles Manson and three of his followers were convicted  
for what the media dubbed the Tate-LaBianca murders

& a few weeks later were sentenced to be killed with cyanide gas

## **A Faint Tracing of Justice for the U.S. Massacre at My Lai**

The My Lai Massacre trial had been going on since the previous fall  
& on January 29

the U.S. Army  
dismissed charges against Major General Samuel Koster  
the division commander who'd been charged  
with covering up the truth  
about the My Lai slaughter

and all charges against enlisted men were dropped:  
Pvt. Max Hutson, Pvt. Gerald Smit, Sgt. Esequiel Torres,  
and Specialist 4 Robert T'Souvas.

The evidence of war crimes,  
rapes, forced blowjobs amidst slaughter,  
beheadings, necklaces of ears, and  
photos sent home of death

was in the air, and there was the trial  
of William Calley & Ernest Medina  
for the My Lai massacre

If you want to recall the whole horrible story



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## WOODSTOCK Journal

read *Four Hours in My Lai*  
by Michael Bilton and Kevin Sim

### **The Winter Soldier Investigation** January 31-February 2, 1971

There had been a series of war crimes testimonies in recent months  
organized in the main by Jane Fonda & Mark Lane

& modeled on the '67 Stockholm War Crimes Tribunal  
of Bertrand Russell & Jean-Paul Sartre

Then the group called Vietnam Veterans Against the War  
decided to sponsor its own Winter Soldier Investigation

whose title came from Thomas Paine's stirring lines  
of December 19, 1776

printed up and down the Atlantic Coast:

"These are the times that try men's souls.  
The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot  
will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country  
but he that stands it now,  
deserves the love and thanks of man and woman"

published just days before Washington & his troops  
crossed the Delaware in flat-bottomed boats to  
rout the Hessian mercenaries out of Trenton  
on December 26

The Vietnam Veterans against the War  
was founded in '67 by a vet named Jan Barry

By '70 and '71 it had set up chapters on campuses  
and organized in VA hospitals.

Some in the movement wanted to use Winter Soldier  
as an indictment tool against American imperialism

but its power was in allowing  
veterans to tell their stories

sans experts sans rhetoric

but as Reality

The HoJo was packed



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100 + vets testified

and 500-700 vets from all over the nation  
came to observe

### Confessions in Anger and Anguish

It wasn't easy to confess horror  
and atrocity

for limning the tales of slaughter  
oft came with the anguished, angry mix  
of those whose patriotism  
allowed them once to pose with dead Viet Cong  
& send the pictures back home.

Some testimony was horrific  
such as Scott Camil's confessions of

slitting the throats of old men & the sex-torture of  
a woman Viet Cong suspect.

One day during Winter Soldier  
a vet brought a human ear  
on a key chain to the HoJo

which was confiscated

The testimony was sequenced by service unit  
First Marine Division; Third Marine Division; First Air Calvary Div.  
101st Airborne Brigade; Fifth Special Forces  
25th Infantry Division; First Infantry Division; Fourth  
Infantry Division, Ninth Infantry Division, and  
from Lt. Calley's Americal Division

There was also the first public presentation on  
Agent Orange by Dr. Bert Pfeiffer of the University of Montana

The secret Dewey Canyon I invasion of Laos of February 1969 was  
revealed at the hearings

ironically at the very moment Nixon was plotting  
another Laos invasion called Dewey Canyon II

Who paid for Winter Soldier?

Fonda and Lane  
the UAW's Emil Mazey  
Richard Austin, the Michigan Sec of State



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Graham Nash and David Crosby (contacted by Fonda)  
& Phil Ochs who gave benefit concerts before Winter Soldier  
and during.

### Vibrations

While Winter Soldier created just a ripple of media attention  
but it vibrated the Secret Antennae  
of the antiwar and counterculture  
and the Intellectual Opposition

For example  
a VVAW member named John Kerry attended the  
Winter Soldier hearings

and was stunned at the testimonies  
of slaughter & rape

Another person who observed Winter Soldier  
called it a "ritual expurgation of guilt"

in the anguish of realizing that is was,  
in the words of John Kerry in '71  
a "barbaric war"

A book on Winter Soldier was published by Beacon Press  
and a film *Winter Soldier*  
was made by 15 in the Winterfilm Collective  
which can be viewed today  
as a reminder of the impact  
of slaughter on young Americans.

It may have made no direct impact at the time  
in the newspapers, radio & tv  
(though the great Pacifica stations in NY and California  
gave it fine coverage)  
but Winter Soldier  
keeps on whispering its truth  
in the halls of eternity

February 1  
31% of college kids had tried pot, and 14% were regular  
tokers  
according to a survey by th'  
National Inst of Mental Health



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## A Hero in Alabama February

A young attorney named William Baxley  
had been elected Alabama AG

and then in February '71 reopened  
the case of the Birmingham bombings

Baxley was in his final year of law school  
& was sitting to lunch at the Kappa Sigma fraternity  
at the U of Alabama  
on September 15, '63

when he heard the horrid news from the church

It made his physically sick.

In 1970 he was elected, age 28, as Alabama Attorney General  
and one of the first things he did was  
ask for the bombing file.

It was difficult to get the FBI to give its information

It would take six years till Baxley  
could put the klan-vomit murderer Chambliss  
on trial

“After a few false starts, my staff and I  
identified Mr. Chambliss, Mr. Blanton, and Bobby Frank Cherry as  
principals. These individuals had been identified by the FBI  
when the 1963 bombing occurred.”

“I requested, demanded and begged the FBI for evidence.”

He was repeatedly stonewalled.

Finally (it must have been 1976)  
he told Jack Nelson, Alabama native, and a writer for  
*The Los Angeles Times*

Nelson went to the Justice Dept  
and said he'd reveal FBI refusal to cooperate with investigation.

“Only then did the FBI shares its evidence.”  
This was late '76, or maybe, just as Carter began, in early '77

Nixon's era was not the time  
to solve a klan-bombing



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February 2  
Richard Nixon named sleaze-sluiced William Casey to head the  
Securities Exchange Commission

February 5  
two Apollo 14 astronauts walk on the Moon

February 7  
in Switzerland a referendum passed  
to allow women to vote!  
Took a long time o Suisse!

### Wilmington 10 February 6

There'd been a week of "racial violence"  
in Wilmington, NC

and blacks had sought refuge from  
roving white racist sleaze  
in a church

A grocery store across from the church was firebombed  
& ten were arrested  
and later got various 29 to 34 years sentences

It was a world-wide case  
especially when some prosecution witnesses recanted their  
testimony.

February 8  
the invasion of Laos by South Vietnamese troops  
with U.S. aircraft hovering above  
was supposed to be called Dewey Canyon II  
but it had been exposed at the Winter Soldier hearings  
and so renamed Lam son 719—

It didn't go well  
& the SV were driven back

The US lost 89 helicopters & 51 US soldiers died

so that with the Laos offensive a failure  
+ inflation ↗

unemployment ↗



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poll numbers  
sour stood the mood for Nix

### **Seabed Nuke Ban** February 11

Banned in outer space  
Banned in Antarctica  
Banned on the African continent  
& now the USSR & th' US & 61 nations signed a treaty banning  
nuclear weapons in the seabed

February 23

Lt. William Calley had been charged with murdering  
more than 100 humans  
in My Lai's moaning ditch

Today he admitted on the witness stand he had killed them—

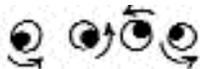
“They were all enemy  
They were all to be destroyed”

He was only following orders

He said he'd begun to hate all Vietnamese.  
Children were good, he told the court, at planting mines.

February 25

Chile decided to sell copper directly to China  
(sidestepping the US company  
known as Anaconda)



Roll, o cap-eyes, Roll!

### **Ellsberg Meets with Sheehan** February 28, 1971

Daniel Ellsberg met with reporter Neil Sheehan

and then Sheehan pitched the issue of the  
*Pentagon Papers* to *The New York Times*

whose editors wanted to see them



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On March 19  
Sheehan came to Cambridge

Ellsberg took him and Sheehan's wife to a pad  
where he left them alone with the Papers over the weekend

Sheehan that weekend photocopied them.

Ellsberg declined to turn over 4 vols of diplomatic negotiations  
on the grounds it might impair upcoming peace negotiations  
and also didn't give the footnotes, so as to preserve Intelligence data

## **Taping System** February 1971

Nixon ordered the taping of conversations in the White House  
& here are some  
Concepts of Why:

- They were valuable, Nixon felt they were his property and that he could peddle them someday
- They would help with his memoirs
- Nixon, according to Ehrlichman from Haldeman, wanted to show history the foreign policy incentives were Nix's not Kissinger's
- to collect dirt and blackmail files

Nixon was tape-batty. Like everything possible  
to be preserved on oxide-dappled strips of plastic  
like a poet who keeps every  
napkin he's scrawled on for the Looms of Eternity  
& the Grad Students of Infinity

Seven mikes were positioned in the Oval Office  
—five in Nix's desk  
and one each in the wall lamps by the fireplace

Two more were under the Cabinet Room table

Four were stealthed within Nixon's "hideaway office" in the  
Old Executive Office Building

plus all the phones in the miked rooms were wired  
and in the Lincoln sitting room.

All the mikes were voice-actuated



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except in the Cabinet Room  
which had an on/off switch

The tape recorders were Sony 800B reel-to-reels

The White House recorders were maintained & replenished  
in a locker room in the basement

The day to day operation  
the changing and storage of tapes  
was done by the  
Technical Services Division of the  
Secret Service

The existence o' th' tape system  
was known only by Nix, Haldeman, Larry Higby,  
Alexander Haig, Alexander Butterfield  
& a very few Secret Service agents  
who maintained the system

Why?

One theory  
is that they wd prove  
to history  
that Nix'  
rath' 'an Kiss'  
fomented policy

also  
Nixon viewed the tapes as **HIS**  
& hey, they'd be worth  
beaucoupsville on the scratch, you dig?  
millions & millions to him, his heirs, his legacy

March 1

Th' Weather Underground bombed the US Capital building,  
with \$300,000 damage.

No injuries

30 minutes in front of the blast  
a call to the Capitol

said a bomb would detonate  
against the invasion of Laos.



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March 7

1000 US planes psycho'd aloft  
to bomb Cambodia and Laos

## Breaking in at the FBI in Media

March 8

That night in Media, Pennsylvania near Philadelphia  
where there was what they call a "resident agency"  
a single suite in the Delaware County Building  
where two agents worked, with no alarm

A group that called itself the  
The Citizens Commission to Investigate the FBI  
broke in  
and took out over 1,000 documents

which helped break open the  
inner structure of the FBI  
to public disapproval

They began sending out packets to newspapers a couple of weeks later  
Sending them out to those  
who might be interested. Such as to the Black Panthers  
in Philadelphia, an FBI wire-tap log on their phone

An NBC newsman named Carl Stern  
entered history when he spotted the acronym "COINTELPRO"  
on one of the memos. What did it mean? he wondered  
& decided to find out  
(it would take till 1973 to ooze  
the facts of it from the Secret Police)

& the pacifist publication *Win Magazine*  
to its lasting credit in the time-track  
began to publish the material.

March 25

Nixon had always refused to meet with the Congressional Black Caucus  
who boycotted his January 22 State of the Union speech

Very Nixon-like, he "reconsidered" and met with the Caucus on March 25  
They presented him with a list of 60 wishes or demands

All 12 Black Congressmen  
were placed on Nixon's enemies list



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*Out, demons, out!*

March 29

Lt. William Calley, Jr  
was convicted of murdering 22 innocents  
at My Lai

then a Military tribunal on March 31 at Ft. Benning  
sentenced him to life at hard labor

March 29

Ford Motor recalled all Pintos for engine defects

### CREEP

March

Nixon formed the Committee for the Reelection of the President  
which began with the braids of total power  
but derided, as the insurrectionary years creeped past,  
as CREEP

It was run, in effect, by AG John Mitchell  
who finally resigned a year later to run the campaign

February-March

East Pakistan became Bangladesh  
there's a tracing of it in Martin Gilbert's  
*A History of the 20th Century* page 428

April 1

Nixon called Joint Chiefs chair Adm. Moorer  
& ordered Lt. Calley brought from jail to his quarters  
while his murder conviction was on appeal

"Yes, sir," said Moorer.

Calley had been sent to life imprisonment  
but it was soon reduced by Nix to 20  
& then in '74 he reduced it to 10  
& in '75 Calley paroled

In later years the lieutenant worked  
in a jewelry store in a mall in Atlanta

His slaughter in the moaning ditch  
of mothers covering their children in vain



# John Kerry, President

brought a mere 3 days in jail  
Someone stealing a necklace  
from his jewelry store  
no doubt would have gotten  
1,500 times as many days

### **"Lose and Stay In"** April 7

The President gave a speech in which he promised  
than 100,000 more American troops  
would be taken from Nam by December

It was a scheme that some called "Lose and stay in"

pulling out troops  
with enough hesitation  
so that the South Vietnamese gov't  
could cling for a few more years

a plan that had failed for the French in the '50s

### **Nixon Knew He Had to End the War But**

Nixon had sleazesome plans for Cochin China  
—pull out U.S. troops then  
bomb 'em to hell  
w/ high tech  
layered robo-kill:

\_\_\_\_\_ spotter planes at 2,000 feet

\_\_\_\_\_ prop bombers, gunships & flareships  
at 5,000

\_\_\_\_\_ jet bombers, photo recon at 10,000

\_\_\_\_\_ electronic, computerized command &  
control at 35,000 directing the  
slaughter beneath

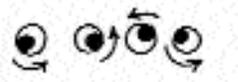
like a sandwich of evil  
for bonk bonk bombing

and then  
after everything was scorched like the Plain of Jars  
to occupy Southeast Asia  
unto eternity



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& suck its vast largess  
in to the coffers of the



"Who lost China?"  
the right wing nuts did rave  
in '49

Nixon was one of them  
And now he risked a nut-rave himself  
on "Who lost 'Nam?"

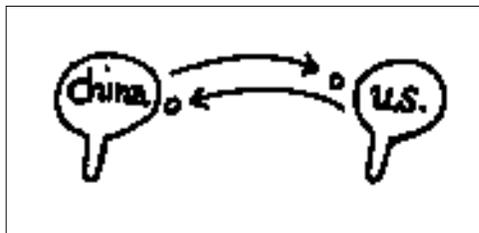
April

A Bangladesh govt-in-exile was set up in Calcutta  
for the land form known as East Pakistan  
separated from west Pakistan  
by 1,000 miles of India

April

The US and Chinese ping pong teams were in Japan  
China invited the US team to China.  
They went, played games in various parts of China  
& met Chou Enlai  
helping lead to the Nixon trip to China the coming year

They called it Ping Pong diplomacy



and it would help lead Nixon to China  
the next election year

April 20

In *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg*  
the Supreme Court under Warren Burger  
unanimously okayed a lower court ruling  
upholding massive bussing  
crosstown in the service of integration



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Burger wrote, “desegregation plans cannot be limited to the walk-in school”

### **Anti-War Actions Increase** April-May

A year and a half  
after the great Moratoriums against the war  
and a year after Kent State  
had shut down  
400 & more of the nation's colleges

(see *America, a History in Verse* Volume 3  
for Kent State & the Moratoriums)

it was snickered in the halls of power  
that the flame on the candle of protest  
had burned down to its psychedelic scone.

Ahh how the military-industrial-surrealists hungered  
for the golden days of student apathy

chugalug contests potlessness  
& seeing how many could pack a booth

but April and May  
were to rile the establishment  
with their complicated uprisings

First came the weeklong demonstrations in Washington  
sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans Against the War called

### **Dewey Canyon III** April 19-23

named after the secret offensive conducted by the Marines  
in early 1969 called Operation Dewey Canyon

along the Laotian border west of Hue  
in difficult mountains

130 Marines were killed then  
& 932 wounded

plus almost 2,000 opponents dead

Over a thousand U.S. vets came to D.C. to camp out



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## WOODSTOCK Journal

& protest the war.

(John Kerry was one of the main organizers of Dewey Canyon III.  
He'd been a Navy Lieutenant commanding  
one of those high speed aluminum patrol boats  
they sent up the rivers to roust the Viet Cong

Kerry was wounded  
and received 3 purple hearts & Bronze and Silver Stars)

Most of the veterans were in their service uniforms  
Some with Hearts and Silver Stars on their chests  
& some with peace symbols on their sleeves  
or the flag upside down

Many had let their hair grow long a few were in wheel chairs

They were angry, anxious, besides themselves some of them,  
forlorn, lonely yet finding solidarity  
with others demonstrating in modified uniforms

camped out by the Lincoln Memorial (in West Potomac Park)  
and on the Mall

the first day of Dewey Canyon III Monday April 19  
Vietnam veterans and 3 Gold Star mothers  
tried to visit Arlington Cemetery by the Pentagon  
but the guards slammed the gates shut against them

Tuesday April 20  
1,500 VVAW  
"occupied" the Mall by the Washington Monument

as a kind of Guerrilla Theater operation  
to show what it was like to

The Nixonites got a court injunction  
to keep them from camping on  
the "nation's lawn"

Wednesday April 21  
by a vote of 480-400  
the vets voted to defy the court injunctions  
& camp out  
They called it Firebase Berrigan

500 reporters & cameramen on hand





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to the nations of Indochina

He spoke of what he'd witnessed at the Winter Soldier Investigation  
in Detroit

how Americans had "personally raped, cut off ears,  
cut off heads, taped wires from portable telephones to human  
genitals and turned up the power, cut off limbs, blown up bodies,  
randomly shot at civilians, razed villages in a fashion  
reminiscent of Genghis Khan, shot cattle and dogs for fun,  
poisoned food stocks and generally ravaged the countryside of  
South Vietnam."

## The Hurling of the Medals & Ribbons

April 23

Then came an action  
that impacted a generation  
& made a dent in public apathy

as 700 VVAW members gathered near a chicken wire fence  
built across the front of the Capitol  
& threw-tossed medals, silver stars and purple hearts  
their Vietnam service ribbons & even some uniforms

"Here are my medals... of dishonor,"  
one said as he flung

One Vet called his bronze star, combat infantryman's badge,  
& purple hearts his  
"merit badges for murder."

One Vet called his bronze star, combat infantryman's badge,  
& purple hearts his  
"merit badges for murder."

Tossing the medals was difficult for many

They were emblems of conduct  
in what they originally had thought was  
for protecting & enhancing the nation they loved

John Kerry tossed first the medals  
given to him by two vets who could not be there

then he threw not his medals  
but the ribbons, the colored cloth that rides above the medals



# John Kerry, President

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It made an impact beyond its numbers  
like Dada in Zürich  
the Beats at Columbia  
Che lashed to a chopper skid  
a burning bus in Birmingham  
  
& angry vets hurling

As a final event of Dewey Canyon III  
some vets planted an elm tree on the national Mall

One of them said  
"after defoliating Vietnam  
what else could we do?"

April 24  
The following day  
there was a much bigger demonstration  
from a broader coalition  
as about 200,000 came also to Capitol Hill  
against the war

### **People's Lobby** April 26-30

Next came the People's Lobby organized by  
such groups as the National Welfare Rights Organization  
the Southern Christian Leadership Conference  
& the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice

Lobbyists visited federal agencies  
with demands on poverty, the draft and war taxes

There was civil disobedience to stop up the offices  
of Congressmen who refused to speak with the People's Lobby

On April 29  
US combat deaths in Nam had eviled up to 45,000

May 1  
the National Railroad Passenger Corporation  
known by the acronym Amtrak  
took over the operation of US passenger trains  
  
in the karma of the railroads  
still bitter in the throats of Americans



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from the depredations  
of its rate-gouging poverty-inflicting past  
all the way back to 1850

May 1  
a Warhol exhibit opened at the Whitney Museum, NYC

It was the day an exhibition of  
people's rebellion opened in the Capitol

### **May Day Demonstrations in D.C.** May 1-5

The fear of Martin King's Poor People's Campaign  
overwhelming Washington  
with encampments  
shut-downs &  
real pressure for  
ending economic inequality  
is what may at last have gotten him shot  
in Memphis

And now, three years later a group called the Mayday Tribe  
part of the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice

(an umbrella group with members such as  
the American Friends Service Committee and the Fellowship of Reconciliation)

put forth a set of days designed to

"raise the social cost of the war  
to a level unacceptable to America's rulers"  
as its brochure proposed

by shutting down D.C.

One of the excellent demands of the Mayday Shutdown  
was guaranteed incomes for Americans

The Mayday Tribe had a legal permit  
to camp out  
in West Potomac Park

but the D.C. police were surprised at the turnout  
when 50,000 showed up on May 1

During the night the White House ordered the



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permit cancelled

and so at dawn May 2 there were 30,000 people in the park  
Some were sleeping & some were listening  
to an all-night rock show

when a police wagon with bullhorn  
circled the park  
and told all 30,000 to split on the nonce

& 750 helmeted cops invaded

Helicopters of malevolence hovered above  
as in Chicago or People's Park in Berkeley

After the roust-out  
about 6,000 protesters went to Georgetown University  
3,000 to George Washington University  
& around a thousand to American University

That very day  
Nixon ordered troops flown from Fort Bragg  
from the 82nd Airborne Division  
to Andrews Air Force Base

& the White House was surrounded by a transreal line  
of DC transit buses parked without gaps

like Tricky's very own conceptual art piece

## **The Willy Nilly Scoop-Up** May 3 Monday

The police grabbed people willy nilly throughout D.C. on May 3  
with no arrest records kept for those popped

passersby by the hundreds were scooped  
many not part of the demonstrations

for a total that day of around 7,000.

John Mitchell had a hunger

& even for

*to round people up* →



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*preventive detention* →

It was part of his federal crime legislation.

and more arrests at the Justice Department on May 4

and on the Capitol steps on May 5

12,600 in all

Thousands were held for two days or more  
without being charged

in preventive dragnetting

just to stop the demonstrations

Then during next four days  
the police police-statically rounded up  
more than 13,000 protesters  
(*Newsweek* said there were 13,400 in toto arrested  
The *Village Voice* said it was 13,600)

“We were maced on bus No. 44  
while singing hymns”  
one person from Pittsburgh wrote

About 5,000 were placed in  
Washington Redskins practice fields  
near RFK stadium

(maybe a paradigm for Chile two years thence)

where the inmates sang  
“We all live in a concentration camp”  
to the tune of “Yellow Submarine”

It was surrounded by “makeshift wire fence”  
and guarded by national guardsmen  
and even Air Force troops

Those in the concentration camp at the Redskins practice field  
dug a ditch for a latrine  
& screened it with a tarp

Then at dark the demos were bussed



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to the Washington Coliseum

to lie upon the cement arena floor  
on blankets given late at night  
and not enough to go around

Others were held in US courthouse detention cells, around 600.

Ron Dellums and Bella Abzug invited those remaining in DC  
on May 5 to visit the Capitol for a rally

Dellums was addressing the rally when  
Capitol Police Chief James Powell ordered everyone to disperse  
and when they didn't ordered them arrested.

about 1,200 in all in cuffs

The American Civil Liberties Union  
represented the 1,200 &  
sued the government & 3 years later, October 4, 1974  
a US District Ct decision required the federal gov't  
to turn over all Mayday '71 arrest records to the ACLU  
for destruction

with the result that fifteen file cabinets  
& five cartons of records  
were turned over to the ACLU

Then on January 16, 1975  
The ACLU won \$12 million damages for the 1,200 arrested  
at the Capitol on May 5

a gift of around \$7,500 for each  
to help ease the rigors of '75

**Tsk Tsk**

Liberals tend to tsk tsk civil disobedience  
(unless it's safely in the past  
Gandhi, Rosa Parks  
Birmingham)

& the Mayday attempt to shut down D.C.  
had a tsk tsk  
you could almost hear

like a Jungian cross-country swoon



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But it showed the Power Elite  
the chaos sure to ensue  
if the war lingered onward

### **CIA CHAOS Spore in Mayday Tribe**

Speaking of chaos  
the illegal CIA CHAOS program  
had a spy inside the planning org in DC  
for the big demos  
designed to shut down D.C.

(the same spy who had infiltrated the Chicago 7 trial)

### **Nixon Sends Dirty-Trick Oranges for Senator Muskie** May 5

The morning of the Capitol demonstration  
Nixon had a gloomy & anti-Semitic chat with his aide Mr. Haldeman  
who laughed, telling Nixon that Charles Colson  
had sent some crates of  
oranges to “the veterans in the group on Saturday  
an awful lot of cases of oranges”

as if they were gifts from Senator Edmund Muskie  
whom polls were showing to be a formidable  
opponent to Nix in upcoming 72

Nixon then vom-mouthed  
“Aren’t the Chicago Seven all Jews? Davis’s a Jew,  
you know.”

Haldeman replied he didn’t think Rennie Davis was.

Nixon flab-voiced forward, “Hoffman, Hoffman’s a Jew.”

*fooling with elections  
the Nixon way*

### **A Container of Swine Fever Virus for Cuba** May 6

In March a US intelligence agent was given an  
unmarked & sealed container  
containing African swine fever  
at Ft. Gulick in the Panama Canal Zone



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The agent was told to fork it over  
to an anti-Castro group  
who in turn came ashore near Guantánamo Bay  
on the southern coast  
& gave it to anti-Castro spores

Then, on May 6,  
the first swine fever ever found in the Western Hemisphere  
slashed through Cuba  
so that by the middle of June  
500,000 pigs were killed  
to stop the spread

### **Nixon Proposes an S&M Job on his Opponents** May 9

Nixon and his oids  
Haldeman, Ehrlichman, Kissinger, Charles Colson  
were cruising at night down the Potomac  
on the Sequoia

Nixon spoke about his domestic opponents

"One day we will get them," Colson later recounted  
Nixon sneering  
like someone at an s&m club:

"We'll get them on the ground where we want them.  
And we'll stick our heels in, step on them hard & twist,  
right, Chuck, right?.... Step on them, crush them,  
show no mercy."

May 13

The IRS commissioner  
refused to investigate Americans  
at the whim of the Nix-oids

so Nixon got rid of him

and on the new White House tape system  
N-oid himself described what he wanted in the new IRS head:

"I want to be sure he is a ruthless son of a bitch.  
That he will do what he's told, that every  
income tax return I want to see I see, that he will go after our enemies  
and not go after our friends."



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**Nixon Makes a Deal with Wallace  
to Run as a Democrat**  
May 1971

Gerald Wallace, Geo's brother,  
was being investigated for "funneling political kickbacks"  
to Geo through Gerald's law firm.

Nixon was in Alabama  
and invited George Wallace to  
accompany him on plane trip  
Mobile to Birmingham

Not long afterward the tax case on Gerald Wallace  
was dropped

and as columnist Jack Anderson noted,

"George Wallace announced he would run for President  
as a Democrat, not as an independent"

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