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The Washington Post
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Washington, DC 20071

12/15/95

Dear Mr. Kamen,

Your today's "In the Loop" column item on Richard Helms threatening Oliver Stone to get him to remove a scene in his movie in which Helms tries to blackmail Nixon over his involvement in plots to kill Castro concludes, "Too bad. Always a shame to lose good fiction." Was it actually fiction?

Helms would not have taken that to court.

According to E. Howard Hunt in his autobiography Nixon was the White House "action officer" in the Eisenhower administration's effort to get rid of Castro.

After the Post published Ron Goldfarb's mafia-did-it fiction, and that is not good fiction, I sent it the CIA documents proving that was an Eisenhower administration plot, not JFK's, as Goldfarb wrote. The CIA dated it to August, 1960, before JFK was elected. Only six high in the CIA even knew about it.

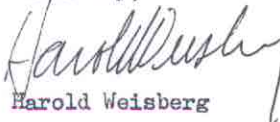
In Helms' testimony to the House assassins committee he indicated that the idea was that of the JFK White House.

When no Kennedy was in a position to refute him, John and Robert having been killed.

That is the same Helms who told the ANPA "Trust us-we do not target on Americans" while he was doing that in the thousands.

Wasn't he convicted of perjury?

Sincerely,


Harold Weisberg

12/15/95

Squashing the Muffin

By Al Kamen
Washington Post Staff Writer

Congress has reasserted America's sacred right to bespoil its environmental treasures without interference from—the United Nations.

The U.N.'s World Heritage Committee last week added Yellowstone National Park to a list of endangered sites of global importance, after hearing concerns about commercial encroachment. The concern is over an effort by a Canadian mining syndicate to set up a big gold, silver and copper mine—the New World Mine—on private land a couple of miles from Yellowstone.

So Sen. Conrad Burns (R-Mont.) drew up an amendment, inserted in the final version of the bill funding the Interior Department by Sen. Slade Gorton (R-Wash.), to set everyone straight about who's in charge of America's landmarks.

"The World Heritage Committee has neither the authority or the ability to require the federal or state governments to change, modify or amend management directions or to create, manage or maintain buffer zones to protect resources," the amendment says.

And if "the World Heritage Committee, or any other organization, recommends nonbinding steps to protect resources in the Yellowstone area," the amendment adds, then the lawmakers "expect the National Park Service, as well as any other affected federal agency," to just go on with "the regular planning process."

The U.N. declaration, of course, is a complete nothing muffin. The committee has no authority at all to "do" anything but shine the spotlight, raise a ruckus, focus world attention and whine.

But some folks thought the Interior Department should be warned nonetheless. And if this country wants to risk polluting a national treasure so a Canadian mining company can make a bundle—with barely a dime going to the U.S. Treasury—well, hey. . . .

When the Going Gets Tough . . .

■ Richard H. Rosenzweig, chief of staff for lately embattled Energy Secretary Hazel R. O'Leary, says he's quitting as of March 31. The move, both he and O'Leary said yesterday, has been in the works for several months and is unrelated to the recent Hill uproar over O'Leary's peripatetic ways.

"He's a great friend of mine who's been in an especially tough job for three years," O'Leary said. "He's earned the right to make his decision to depart." Today, O'Leary pointed out, is the third anniversary of her being tapped by President Clinton for the Cabinet job.

Rosenzweig says he's going private sector in the energy field but has nothing lined up so far.

The 18½-Second Gap in 'Nixon'

■ Movie fans going to Oliver Stone's "Nixon" won't see a nifty scene where former CIA director Richard M. Helms tries to blackmail the former president. The one where Helms threatens to reveal Richard M. Nixon's involvement while he was vice president in plots to kill Fidel Castro.

Sounds pretty good; certainly sounds like something that could have happened in Washington.

Problem is Helms got hold of a shooting script—we won't say how he got it; old spook habits die hard—and felt it wasn't something he wanted his grandkids to see, since it wasn't true. Never mind that it was just an Oliver Stone movie.

So he had his lawyer, John G. Kester, write Stone one of those lawyerly letters, the kind that freeze your blood, even if they're not directed at you. Kester calmly explained how everything Stone ever owned or hoped to own would end up in Helms's garage if that scene hit the silver screen.

Next thing you know, the scene, with dashing Sam Waterston as Helms, is on the cutting room floor. "It wasn't because his lawyer wrote threatening to sue me," Stone told a colleague. The scene was just too long, slowed things up and wasn't needed.

Too bad. Always a shame to lose good fiction.

Johnson Drops Presidential Aspirations

■ The Boston Globe reports that General Services Administration boss Roger W. Johnson has dropped out of the running for the University of Massachusetts presidency. Johnson said those in charge in Boston didn't have a firm idea of what they wanted to do for the future.

"Someone recommended him for the job and they asked him to come up for an interview," a GSA spokesman said, adding that Johnson "has no plans to leave the administration."

Unless he gets the right offer?

Somewhere at the DNC Floats a \$5,000 Check

■ Seems the Democratic National Committee has money to burn these days. At least that's the impression of Democrat-turned-Republican Rep. Mike Parker (Miss.).

Seems back in July, even before Parker switched parties, he had personally delivered a check reimbursing the DNC for all past financial contributions, he told DNC Chairman Donald Fowler in a letter.

But the \$5,000 check has never been cleared through his campaign account, Parker said.

"If the DNC had used the \$5,000, maybe Estruth [Jerry Estruth, the failed Democratic candidate for former California representative Norman Y. Mineta's seat] could have gotten 37 percent of the vote," Parker opined to an acquaintance. Estruth got only 36 percent in a losing effort to former representative Tom Campbell.

Eizenstat Seems to Be Homeward Bound

■ White House folks are saying it's just about a done deal that former Carter domestic policy boss Stuart E. Eizenstat, now ambassador to the European Union in Brussels, is coming back to become undersecretary of commerce for international trade. Stanley Roth, now the senior director for Asia at the National Security Council, is moving over to the U.S. Institute of Peace. White House folks say they don't have a replacement for Roth, who's leaving for personal reasons.