

Dear Bud,

10/23/73

Experience tells me that it does no good to reason where people are unwilling to try to reason with me, as it also tells me there is no purpose served in invoking a record where there is no willingness to consider that record. So, instead, I'll hastily state what I regard as facts, on impulse after catching Teddy Kennedy on the Today show.

If it is not the final crunch, we are now in the most serious of those his survival requires of Nixon. He has, at each crucial time, precipitated a diversionary crisis. And each time he has done this he has gotten away with getting everyone away from the crux. As his situation gets more dangerous, he has to run greater dangers in these efforts.

In time, I have felt from the first he could invoke martial law. The dictatorship, an overt one, that would result, poses great danger for all who have in any way opposed him or brought to light what exposed him, with the possible exception of the most prominent. Like the legislators, the Post and its people. They alone can be immune.

However, everyone is crapping around and really accomplishing nothing except help him strip for action. The way he is being fought is the way he wants to be fought, the way he has planned all along, once he knew he had to fight. On his terms.

You would not talk when you were about to depose Bennett. That, of course, was your decision. That was a major turn in events, as you will come to understand. That was also the ideal time, for it would have controlled or at least exercised some control on what followed, instead of leaving it largely as Nixon wanted.

Right now the time is again good, better, excellent, because there is almost nobody who doesn't believe he ended the special prosecutor's office because it was breathing down his neck. I think so, too, but I also think that Archie's breath was not all that hot. If, for example, it is over the Hughes stuff, I wrote that months ago. It cost me an agent a friend had arranged when I sent it to him as a sample. I was aware of the possibility, but the sooner it happened the better, if it would happen. I was onto his crookedness with property long ago, at first with a suspicion Jim has helped me check out (negatively, as far as we have been able to go) and then with the solid that is in my files and long has been, about San Clemente. Long before anything broke I was making efforts. With help I'd have filed an FOI long before what did come out began to. I had exhausted my administrative remedies, as Jim knows. And before the story came out I attempted to get at least a dozen major media and legislators interested, without success, another part of what I have to consider.

Through all of this I have had to sit on what I regard as gut stuff. My circumstances have permitted nothing else. Jim, for example, was too busy helping you for us to do other things, as we will, in time and as we can. Because of many experiences, some of which you should be able to recall, I can not and I will not make idle disclosure of what I have put together. However, given today's situation, what I can imagine or foresee, what I know beyond question and what I can estimate to be provable and true, and subject to the limitations of the committee, I think, for one possible example, that the Senate Judiciary Committee can now do more than was done with report Dome. I think that if anything now can, it can be the deciding difference.

These are, not by accident, generalities. Jim, by whom I will send this, has an understanding of some, I think enough to give an evaluation. I gave him that before you deposed Bennett. I have added a bit in putting more together.

There are other ways in which this can be used. Depositions are one of a number.

And I am still seeking and expect to get more. I know where it is, some beyond shredders, I think. Some in testimony. Some in books the destruction of which should mean jail for those still untouched in all of this.

Again because of our conditions, the realities about which others have spoken frivolously and disbelievingly, my writing has been slowed down. I have more than 100,000

words of a literary bill of indictment written. Because I have no contract and no dictation of what is to be in, what out, I am, because I think it necessary for comprehension, laying a foundation for the average man to understand what is inherently incredible. So, my getting it all onto paper is slow. I will not change now. I'll proceed with the book as I conceive it. I am in some of the gut stuff now, what has not been addressed anywhere. In fact, I have completed two chapters each one of which could be and is long enough for a separate book. This is how much I am trying to encompass.

What this also means is that giving anything away now entails a major sacrifice and could mean throwing months of the hardest and for us costliest work away.

In any event, I have no way of going around to see if anyone has enough interest in the country, in the future of his kids or anything else, including even political advantage to be interested and if I did, I think I'd opt for completing this work.

I do believe I have what can at this juncture make the crucial difference. I would not suggest that anyone consider its use without considering the possible consequences.

I also have to consider these consequences. They can be more severe to us because of our situation, so any use, if there is interest, has to begin with doing something about our situation. As a minimum, it means ending the debt I have incurred to do the work I have been doing without any subsidy and often subsidizing others.

On this business of consequences, let me remind you of a little story you never told me.

One day I went into your offices, then on the other side of 16th street, not to see you. I went to see Jim and to give all of you copies of some of the documents on Fiorini and Suarez (I'm still missing my set of Suarez, so if you have two, I'd appreciate one back). I don't believe you were in the office that day, but that is not important because I didn't go to see you and didn't.

Shortly thereafter you saw Werdig, I think in court. He told you, accurately, the day but inaccurately, that I had been to see you. Now this could not have been his information from a bug in your office or anything like that. It could have had several origins. One is a tail on me.

If it is not certain and I do not say it is fact, I also say it can be and I can't safely ignore it when I have other proofs, including carbons on federal surveillance on my appearances, have confession from two who have been part of it, and can pinpoint a number of intrusions going back to 1966.

There are people who have the means to make possible what I regard as possible. In the past they have sat on their means or passed them away, often after I warned it would be wasting them down the drain. With some, had I the disposition to approach them, it would be a futility because of the years-long backbiting of which I have been aware but have said nothing.

From my New York sources I know that you are trying to raise money for getting the use of the Zapruder film. You have not asked my opinion of this project so I do not offer it. You are, in fact, involved with more people than you know and with work you also do not know that was done, originally, for me. From this I know that you consider you do have ways of raising money and are willing to make the effort if you consider the effort worthwhile. Of the things for which money might be raised, my assessment is that as of now there is none with more useful potential that what I have in mind.

Sincerely,