

FM- your note re Lane/Ragsdale and my was it surprise over alliance? HW 9/1/78

If I indicated disapproval or anything like that relating to any alliance between a conservative and a liberal it is not what was in my mind. Perhaps I was surprised that of the view attributed to Ragsdale would align himself with Lane. If so this was probably because of Lane's deserved reputation and their general dislike of the views with which he is popularly connected. I have no recollection, but I do not disapprove of associations between people of different views, believe they are necessary, and have many of my own....I do recall suggesting a caution to Ragsdale, based on my knowledge of Lane. I'd not be a bit surprised at any sudden shift he might make. As with "racie, perhaps leaving Ragsdale holding the bag. (Own not intended.)...I Ray ever 1) wises up and 2) sees an alternative, Lane will have trouble and no need for his new Memphis home. While I've seen and heard nothing, I'm sure that by now his black associates realize they've been had and are detached or detaching themselves. What does this leave Lane? The only legal possibility, as I'm sure Wayne will confirm, is the new evidence road and with what has happened to "Lane's" variation, cribbed from Nat. Inq. and Hays, what possibility do you see?...Ray has need for a lawyer for the November hearings but for what else now? More civil suits Lane won't handle? And all with the statute run on them? So if Lane has nothing to take to State courts what use has he for Ragsdale except bag holding or possibly name-trading? What I guess I'm saying is that Lane has created a vacuum for himself and for Ray. It is nothing for another, Ragsdale or anyone else, to be around to get sucked into... It has always been my opinion that Ray should not have appeared before the committee, with which Lane had special hangups and for which he had special uses, like Ray's intensive desire to be before it, an utter irrationality. To have Ray "Lane foolishly indulged his yen. Because Lane was totally unprepared and abysmally ignorant Ray not only had this predictable disaster - Lane is unaware of some of what went on. About which I'm saying nothing for now, but a few things were dropped. ...It may seem impossible and I can't be sure until I see the transcript but it is not impossible that Ray was not lying re the two things that made him look worst on the basis of fact, the laundry and the England bank robbery. In the past I discussed both with him. His insistence that he was not in Atlanta 4/1/68, for example, is not new. I can't see any reason for him to lie about this when he knew it was the official allegation and that there was basis for the allegation. Given the haul in the Fulham bank heist there was no reason to lie about it, either. What was stolen was peanuts - and the time was so close to capture that it is irrelevant in any effort to account for his financing....Again thanks for the clips. If you taped the show to be aired day after tomorrow I'd like to hear it...Ford is playing what he regards as a sure thing. In this he virtually plagiarizes Battle. I doubt there is sufficient public awareness or sufficient remaining sympathy for Lane and his approach for Ford's committee indications to help Ragsdale in the election...If Ragsdale says any more about Lane at that press conference, I'm interested. I've heard reports that there never was any Washington press conference at which the press was so visib'