

After spending 4-5 hours with Skolnick, Ron Kessler thinks he is a madman and that all his crookedness and dishonesties are no more than part of his madness....The Post has turned Kessler loose on Nixon's personal finances. I have offered him what I have that has been published and referred him to other sources. He begins with the notion that Nixon would not go in for crooked stock deals, anything like that. I suggested that he had to get outside the concept of crooked tax-collectors to understand Nixon's financial affairs. He can see that from what the White House has said it would seem that Nixon paid just about nothing for San Clemente. I also fed him a few lines: Rebozo and the Mafia's stolen stocks; Nixon is President; Rebozo keeps the yield of the stolen stocks; nothing happens to the man who handled these stolen stocks. I suggested that he go back to the Checkers speech and the stories that led to it. I asked and he promised (that'll be the day!) xeroxes of the initial stories and the text of the speech. He is a good reporter when he wants to be and enjoys investigative stories, which he has done rather well. He knows Messick from having worked with him, I think he said on the Boston Herald. I'm glad the Post has him on this. HW 6/4/73