Dear Jim, The Rip-Off 6/17/74

More than I knew is missing, as I learned when I locked for some files Saturday.

Of the new and identifiable is some CIA and White House material not used by the Ervin committee or any papers, really important stuff. I found a memo I wrote you about some, like this a way of making a record for myself. So from it I know enough to get me by if I cannot replace it.

Yesterday morning, not because it was Sunday but because I was tired, I'd intended to sleep, but Ian's dog resents lightening and thunder, so at 4 a/m. I was up. I decided to clean up all that is stacked on top of the file cabinets and desk. Until Lesar came, soon followed by Bud, I did the cabinets and file almost all. All I don't have to read for the first time. This morning I cleaned the desk. The stuff is not buried. It is gone.

I have been thinking back. We had two other guests, one of whom was here overnight, Oliver Gillie, Sunday London Times' medical correspondent. Lew Chester was here an afternoon and until about midnight, but he had no bag. I do not suspect either.

Most of what was on the desk goes back to right after the first of the year. It is more work on the original WG tome. With carbons it weighs 1 3/4 lbs, that much work that I just got on paper without reading. However, it will include some of what I'm now working on so it might be helpful and it may include use of some of what is gone.

I have been going at it so intensively I haven't read some stuff I got from the Archives months ago. I'll do it today before I get toreading the old writing for what I can now use.

Barn door dept: a carbon of the new book is deposited safely outside my home and with someone not in my files and not in any way connected with the work. Any aspect. The critical judgement will be good so I hope there is a reading. I will do this chapter by chapter.

Bud spoke vaguely yesterday about having a security sweep made. He knows he should have it done. He can. He knows I can't and can't pay for it. McCord is not the only one. I was blunt enough with him on this yesterday, telling him "McCord is the most unappreciative bastard" because I have done much for him (and simultaneously for Bud) in providing them <u>proof</u> that Alch was working for the WH when he was McCord's attorney. He may do it this time but I doubt it. He promised this in return for something years ago, I'd say 1969.

My options really are few. If I devote myself to the myth of security I do nothing else. I can not let others stay here over night and I can (andwill, save for Howard) not let others go into the files, but that covers only the less likely possibilities. Against the more probable there is no real protection, which is why I have not really concerned myself with these matters. It is a risk that can't be avoided.

I also checked all the files in which there was a possibility of misfiling. I had these in a legal-sized manila envelope too large for my files and I knew exactly where it was, upright at the back of a file drawer from a transfer case that I had for WG stuff only. There were four like this. One only is gone. The one that is unique, holding only that which was never used anywhere. There is another of this description, but it could be duplicated with minimum effort from usued public records.

All this stuff related to the WH, CIA, Hunt, Colson and perjury, enough with the disposition to jail all the top spooks. Wouldn't happen anyway. The memo to you includes reference to Hunt's NY phone service, connected to DC. And secretary.

HW