

Dear Jim,

8/8/74

The thoughts, the reminiscences that return at such moments! As I carried the typewriter into the living room to be near the TV, I saw something on this old typewriter table that reminded me how long ago and for how little I got it. In the mid-30s and for less than \$5.00. This irrelevancy is as relevant and the 30 minutes of "reporting" since the evening TV news went off. It is a typical, miserable, more-Nixon inducing performance, everyone begging for compassion for this wretched man who has done so much to hurt so many, who has done to the nation what in our lifetimes can't begin to be undone. No compassion for his myriads victims. Imagine all this bathos for an innocent political victim. It has extended even to his junior-grade Nazis and crooks- they should be let loose, too.

Now all the good about that great man Ford will pour upon us. What good? They'll find some. Maybe he helped an 80-year-old ~~grand~~ grandma across a street when he was 10. If he has done anything good since I've not heard of it.

Nobody will say that Nixon selected him because he was least likely to be an attractive alternative, because there was no benefit to be expected of a Ford Presidency that would promote ousting Nixon.

Especially when you mention immunities in your 8/5 are you on the nose. That is also the clear import of this disgusting stuff I've been watching. It has been my own view, that his major concern from the time of the S.C. decision has been the deal he could make. I believed and as of this evening still believe he was driving a very hard bargain. It is my expectation that he will not be touched and may hold a few benefits.

A strong, decent and moral society would see to the rendering of justice for its own sake, for the protection of the people and so that no other authoritarian monster or dangerously sick man will again be tempted.

This also means that the to-now untold will remain untold for all the period the telling could have meaning and that much will never come out. There is no governmental machine for it and writers as we now have them are incapable. If they could be published on it.

If he is a witness, as I presume now can't be barred, he'll lie and he'll do all he can to exculpate his bastards.

What I have put together ~~never~~ never had much chance. It now must be further reduced.

I have been so busy getting WWIV out together and trying to find time to write on the VC book that if he had been possible for me to pick something up about the USSR transit rights through Roumania I have not. However, it would not be the first time. They did that in WWII before the French backed out on their defense of Czechoslovakia treaty.

I am inclined to believe that what he did to the economy eliminated any chance of a pro-Nixon coup. I have felt from the time in April when he had to release his transcripts that he would be without Establishment support. The S.C. decision did it to him and it was Establishmentarian.

Too bad that it never really pays for the failures of the Establishment to look out for its own interests. We all pay. In this case we have and we will.

I guess the one good news is that Je is coming back well. I took Lesar to see Dr. Raio after midday to see if he can make some inquiries in DC about the seemingly strange immigrations problems he has had. The one thing good about that is that he asked us to join him in his Szechuan lunch. Shrimp Champagne, Two Kinds Meat and some kind of beef that the old beefeater Lesar snaffled after I had a taste. This, too, was good. Not much else today.

Best, with more than 1 tear-