

Dear Barry,

3/25/74

You have reason to know that I use my phone fairly openly. However, in the conversation just ended there were some things I would have said had we been face-to-face that I felt I should not say by phone.

One of these has to do with the possibility of eavesdropping on your phones rather than mine.

You may remember that once I told you my terms for all of my work: making its continuation possible.

There is now a possibility of that. Two colleges want it and an approach has been made to one who seems willing to finance it. There is no deal. Merely initial encouragement. However, if it does come to pass, then my situation will be different. My work is my asset. Once I do not require exclusivity for asset value, my needs do not outweigh my desires.

For whatever it is worth, my analysis of what is represented in today's story is that the utter ruin of the Post and its properties is intended. Not just attacking it. Among the things this will represent is a fortune in money, not just influence on the public and political minds.

If I am correct, there is but one way for the Post, rich and powerful as it is, to survive. It must take the initiative. Today's story is far short of that. The initiative means much more vigorous attack than any reporting I remember represents. I do not mean editorial attack. I mean reporting not done yet, by the Post or any other element of the media.

What has been reported is far, far short of the reality. Here I mean not what I suspect but what I have in hand, if not all more than enough.

Now how can anyone prevent the rest of the truth and fact from coming out? Not by bribery or by fixing.

By what Nixon has always done, by attacking something else for some other reasons.

I mentioned surveillance only as an unknown. There are others, one the competence of those who will do the job.

If you knew what I know that has not come out you might be more willing to credit what I am saying.

I have not seen yesterday's Times. Radio news says it had a story on Nixon and his tax exemptions. That is an area where the major story has been missed. There was fraudulent intent and conspiracy to commit fraud, much more significant than anything that has come out. But as long as the papers depend on leaks and are the creatures of the needs of those leaking they will not learn and will not report what is not leaked.

The conflict you face when I tell you that I will inform you in confidence only I do recognize. If the Post gets concerned enough, it can resolve this conflict. If it does, I will trust you.

Meanwhile, an ellipsis. Gast Baker in a Byzantine role. Then suppose he knows and has enough to bring charges against top CIA people. And then carry this forward, understanding that many jail doors do yawn open.

I have and can show you enough of what he has. It can't be all and the Post is not mentioned in it. I don't have the memo you quote today. (I would like to read it if you have it because it could tell me what it might not tell you.) It is enough to make those who can suffer find temptation hard to resist.

If I don't know what will happen, I believe I know what can. And if I were the Post I'd be pretty worried.