

5/22/72

Dear Js,

Wirely 19 with valuable enclosures here today. Glad to get Feltrinelli stuff. Will read clips when I can, but even when you are on the right side of the moon, how can we find time for all that taping, transcribing? Wow! (My gimp is improving, makes out o.k. as long as she stays off feet too much.) The KPFA Italian interviews says that what is happening there is what I forecast (immodesty) for here, to drive society into more authoritarian stance.

If it takes two weeks for 3rd class, unless something seems urgent I'll still accumulate clips because our circumstances are such even stamps are a serious problem. Mailed the one you got 18 as I was leaving for St. L.

Your earlier analysis that the objective is to Vietnamize the defeat seems more certain daily. As is Nixonian intent to delay it until after early November. I think it is now also clear that his adversaries (they sure as hell ain't mine!) anticipated this and were ready for his Parisian stupidity. Likewise agreed on prospects little USSR comfort. The chill of their reception, despite those lining the way, came through the boobs in the tube. I think they may be dominated by fear of US insanity more than anything else.

Everyone who has commented says about what you do (and I believe) about Bremer: The long-advertised-for single nut appeared. However, with each new disclosure, there is doubt cast on the certainty that he was alone. Like money, professional police incompetence (one of foci my Nat. Enquirer piece), etc. It is simply incredible that he wasn't spotted, that arresting police Malazamoo didn't alert bodyguards, all sorts such things. The McG. hadbill was not finesse but accident: it was just distributed, under wiper blade. Leave it to the ever-faithful feebies! What I didn't say but spotted is that his Wallace stalking coincided appearance reviews, attention to "rank book. Check library not completed. Enq. doing and will add if it shows (doubtful on time)...Yeh, I can't say again "How come no not potshots George Wallace?"...The shrinks have rushed in too soon...Always kill the one you love. The lingering perplexity is can nuts be turned on and were these? Hard to escape suspicion.

Think I've suggested reason for no Hoover autopsy: not to prove him, Nixon liars in bragging about the perfect state of his health when he could drop off momentarily.... No improvements visible. If Bremer is case in point, the FBI has come apart. They found 9mm shells his apt and never continued search for second pistol (with confiscated one, he had three!) Just learned from clip Milwaukee paper, CDN man's notes, that the 9mms were found immediately. What better reason for not looking further?...Gray may be worse in some ways.

Programming: can't find my copy The Biliken Courier, which advances Manchurian Candidate thinking, based on real Copenhagen case of real programming by hypnosis. I think Kaiser and Diamond lacked imagination. Diamond had to know of that case, and he should have searched for tangible objects or sounds that could have triggered. "like billiken....Diagnoses Bremer by those without examinations both schizo and paranoid. Suspect schozos more susceptible to suggestion.

Houston: working one angle with reporter friend. Kuttner good suggestion. Missed appointment Post friend Thursday. He is their demonstrations expert and was boning for weekends (where police agent was equipped with CBS News credentials, from observation of friend who was there and spoke to him). He sure wasn't CBSing, from informed friend's observations and conversation with him. (Just technician, and taking pictures for his wife!)

Joe Kraft on Teddy: I don't think there is any chance I will run, but endorsement of someone close to certain if Wallace second-spotting Humph clear before convention.... Wallace aide resignation over fund-raising: anything having to do with his funds can supply Ray lead. ...The Chettas sure died young -and suddenly. ...O'Hara retirement proper. Can't

why it was delayed. But the appointment of Charles Ward is more than recognition that he had been scheduled for earlier judgeship. It means McK is now illing to be anti-Garrison, and that is reading on JG's current situation. Politically, if not physically and emotionally. Interestingly, O'H's last big case of which I know was the JG-inspired State case against himself. Surprising that O'H then appointed most leftward lawyer in state albeit one of best and most respected....There is no adequate description of Hoppe!... After reading Wicker's 5/9 comment on Nixon's 5/8 speech, suppose I'm lucky not to have had time to look, see. More rightening daily. Emperor correct head, designation...How many Bremer had to copy!

George McMillan seems to be alcoholic, on the rocks, and marriage there, too. He has to call even poor people collect. Millionaire wife has clamped down on him, and if he doesn't get ms in publisher will, too. He called Jerry collect when Jerry was in St. L., and Jerry accepted it. So, in middle of this call, Priscilla hung George's phone up. Tragic. Jerry provokes him by saying, when George asks for help, why doesn't he ask me, that Jerry knows I'll help him - if he does an honest job. The unvarying response is how George is going to slap me around when he sees me. (You may recall I told him how to get here and that I did provoke him, methinks with some effect.) Jerry just phoned.

So did the Enquirer. They like my piece and will cut when they decide on space. Maybe I can be commercial again, if the Enq. is "commercial" only. But I gave them more than they could use on purpose. My chief concerns are not so much what they'll do to it as that they'll use what they have been told by Charach, that there is assassination academy (no kiddin', he said it and probably believes it -and can't you see how that suits the Enq.?) and that they will have reached J.G., who will say something outlandish. I can stand on what I wrote. But to cite what you non-TVers might find obscure, not "the whoooooolllee thing."...Jerry says the St. L TV show shook up NBC's chief "interviewer" there so much that they used someone else to interview Frank, fearing an antagonistic interview. His source: antagonistic prospective interviewer.

~~Never~~ was a family with less family bond. They were all to have gone to see poor John weekend ago, so I didn't write him. Now it turns out they didn't, and I have to.

Best,

19 May 1972

Dear Harold:

Your third class mailing of the 6th (postmarked Washington) came in yesterday, containing the copy of Ray's letter and many interesting clippings. Those you requested be returned are enclosed along with some minor contributions from this end.

On the 12th we finished up six weeks of the graveyard shift, the effects of which were cumulative and hit us along with the shock of returning to a less abnormal schedule. We've been pretty much hors de combat for a week, trying to learn how to sleep again and hoping our digestive systems would settle down.

Since we last wrote (just after JEH died) Nixon has mined North Vietnamese ports and then the other day the attempt was made on George Wallace. If one follows the ancient Chinese principle that nothing that happens in an election year is unrelated to the campaign, certain tentative conclusions emerge. The first is that nothing to date contradicts the assumption that the war is being ~~delayed~~ prolonged mainly for campaign purposes. What we read in the news concerns military operations, most of them disastrous; nothing is said of the political changes going on in the countryside in Vietnam, where Thieu's people are being liquidated or chased into Saigon. Nixon may get minor comfort from the Russians on his Moscow trip, but they, no more than the Chinese, can afford to jeopardize their position in the world by sealing out the NLF and the North Vietnamese. If, as is beginning to be said openly in the establishment press, Nixon's policy of Vietnamization has failed utterly, I would like to repeat, however immodestly, what I said last time: that the object of the policy was not to Vietnamize the war but to Vietnamize the defeat. If Thieu can't make it with American logistic and air support, well, after a few more months, say after the GOP convention, perhaps his defeat might be accepted in this country, where an American defeat wouldn't be accepted.

The other thing that has interested us is that the case of George Wallace fills a long-felt need in the pattern of assassinations in this country. As long as only liberals and antiwar characters were being knocked off the whole policy was admittedly, even glaringly, one-sided. Now no one can say that our bumper crop of lone nuts are not well-rounded and perfectly capable/ of operating on both sides of the political spectrum. Mr. Bremer thus contributes a sense of balance to the picture, compared with which the probability that, with Wallace campaigning at best from a wheelchair, Nixon will pick up votes in the south is indeed a petty consideration. Mr. Bremer contributes more than balance, actually. There is a certain finesse about his catholicity -- not only a Wallace poster in his car; a McGovern handbill, and TWO books about Sirhan, including Kaiser's. I have maintained all along that each assassination becomes more sophisticated than the last, and Mr. Bremer kindly has reinforced this theory.

While I'm running on this way I would just like to say that we're still impressed with the lack of an autopsy for Mr. Hoover in a situation where no firm cause of death can be stated, and ~~now~~ this whole business not only helps to correct the political balance in the list of those departing from our political life but also solves a rather knotty problem of what was to be done with the old man anyway. In case of national emergency, for instance, one would want someone on the job who would do what they were told.

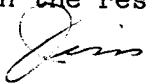
Just one more thought on Mr. Bremer. While I'm speculating I might as well say that regardless of whether he's just one more lone nut or just a well-programmed nut, what he has done sets the stage for any bigger job that may become necessary later on, say after the Democratic National Convention is over and the final target becomes known. Certainly if there's a deadlock and a draft and Ted is nominated he certainly could merit attention, and I'm not sure that McGovern would'n't be equally eligible. And as far as that goes, if by some miracle Nixon should do what should have been done all along and say the hell with it, we're getting out, there is no reason why the people who have been doing all these things should not turn on him. Of course he's the boy, and it would cause some heartburn here and there, but after all there is such a thing as keeping one's eye on the ball and attending to the real business that matters.

Later: Your mailing of May 17 just came in. Glad to have all the interesting enclosures, and herewith those you asked to have returned.

We gather you think Bremer is genuinely a nut. We certainly have that impression too. So was Sirhan, whom we very early concluded had to have been programmed to have behaved as he did. It remains to be shown how this could have been done with either man, but in Sirhan's case the case for programming grows stronger as time passes. He had no adequate natural motive, and the fact that he is Jordanian is, if anything, far better motivation than anything that has been suggested up to this point about Bremer. One witness describes him as very blond -- "almost an albino" -- which suggests a person more lonely than fundamentally crazy, more seeking some shred of self-realization and identity than deranged. In such case he could be peculiarly vulnerable to suggestion by anyone who paid him any serious attention. No hint that anyone has, of course.

In reply to one of your notes, I'm sorry to say I don't know any likely newsmen in Houston. The AP man there is very much an establishment type who specializes in reporting news of the oil industry. A nice guy, but no telling how he'd react to an inquiry about Foreman. More likely, I should think, might be one of the kids who work for Pacifica's station in Houston, KPFT-FM, but there again I'm a bit hesitant to suggest an approach because I don't know any of them personally. Larry Lee, the young man who started the station, steered it through two KKK bombings and got it on the air in spite of everything, is now in Berkeley at KPFA, and there is some suspicion that he's not quite what he seems and may be working for someone else. If true, it's extremely nasty business. We just don't know. Possibly Kuttner or one of your friends on the Post might have some suggestions.

Glad to hear your trip was productive and that you are so pleased with the results. Got to get this in the mail. Best from us both.



jdw