

*Confidential*

Dear Howard,

6/3/74

The letter you mailed Friday came four hours ago and I haven't read it or the other mail. The Supreme Court ruled for us in the Ray case this morning, there was other craziness (or worse) afoot that I had to abort and did, the phone has been busy with reporter friends, and I've just not had the opportunity. However, because I'll be going into town, I'll now open and read while the phone is silent. Understand that what I'll be doing is reading and answering so that I can get as much responded to as possible and in tonight's mail because I presume you will be dealing with The Sayings.

Enclosed clips: Livingston the craziness. Thanks.

If you did not speak to your father about the drapes, it is getting important for me to know whatever I can because the two just happen to block two air conditioners!

Opening graf: natch! Both ways.

I've read to the bottom of the first page. By coincidence a letter I wrote Dick was returned. I haven't checked. I must have made a mistake in the address.

Despite what you say to this point and despite Dick's later addition, to add from other sources, I believe that it is preferable and possible to do this by facsimile. I see no need for an extremely long book that will be all inclusive and much to be said for a shorter, more selective and punchier one. We don't include everything. We include what we can do well. If it turns out that we do have to add comment, we can do that without great trouble in the facsimile format.

So, I would use the long verbatims where there are worth considering using. we can eliminate later.

I also obtained a few things from the White House. I'll have to make a list. Where we can juxtapose them and still use in facsimile, fine. That was my purpose in wanting them. I also have an extensive file from the papers. We may wind up trying to get other copies of other official texts. We'll know which ones from what we recall and what you have been gleaming from your own files.

Now in facsimile reproduction you can excise and it can be clear that you are. So, to take your example, and the 3/30/73 is one I had in mind, turn them around, put them in chronological sequence, with more from 3/30, and you will see better what I had in mind at the outset and to which I returned in writing Dick as I had in a call he made to me. No, I don't mean turn around completely, I do mean to begin with Nixon's piety and then do the other side in sequence, and here the other official statements can be used, whichever we can get. We can add footnotes at the bottom of pages explaining who each person is and it will be clear that it is Nixon speaking, so still the sayings. The turning around is with Nixon's statement, 8/29/72 before 4/30/73. All of Nixon first and then what the transcripts disclose he really meant and said. I would use the Rogers with the first set, Nixon's holiness. I'm on the second page. All of this shit first on any subject and then the truth from the transcripts.

(If Dick will agree to go back to this format and we stick to facsimile, which has time and cost advantages, and if you are willing to work here, with the adjustments of a personal nature I suggested, then you can really make the whole thing up, read for printing, right here and I can get you paid for it if Dick sees the book I do after the initial work. He is awaiting the selections from the ~~xxxx~~ transcripts pasted up by subject. He wanted to see two chapters and an outline and I told him two subjects and a list of the others plus a xerox of the paste-up excerpts. And I do have the official texts now, three, two for cutting and pasting for the final, not the initial, use. The initial would still be based on Bantam, without the other texts added yet. I hope this is not confusing.

I think the theme of 3/30 is the right opening one. But because they all deal with guilt and hiding it we have to break it down by subjects. "let it all hang out" another one? Is there enough of this - based on this single phrase - to make a separate and self-ridiculing subject (I thought of some of this fractured English and mishmashing of

metaphors as another subject and these quotes are some I'd put aside to remind you. I have a file of a few things, fewer than I would have because of many interruptions and diversions and an effort to write away on The Unimpeachment of Richard Nixon.

Your penultimate graf is exactly the crux. I am sure it can be done that way and it is the only way, honestly. But we can't be 1308 pages inclusive. We do have to select.

Another possibility is using the same thing over and over again with a fair selection from the official texts on subject, like a choice selection on seeing to it that it all comes out and then how he preserved it on each aspect, the breakin, Ellsberg, the committees and the courts, etc.

The (non) crisis in the presidency (5/13) can be juxtaposed with all he said about his sole interest being in protecting the institution (read not himself, pure in: cent soul).

Another is justice and he'll do nothing/to protect his aides.

Another is executive privilege, and I've a bevy noted on that, there he concludes a business on no trading of ex priv until 6/17 and he comes right back we take ex priv.

Don't let ridicule out of your mind. You will be honest, so I have no concern there.

The abuse of and limitations with language could be great stuff, separately, maybe at the end.

But don't worry about the length of quotations. They'll have to be full to begin with. I think we have to begin with fullness packed up of what has possibilities. This means a fairly large elimination initially and then we go over what remains, what you put together. For this I think 1/2" ~~waxing~~ magic tape is fastest for the Bantam version which we can find fairly fast in the official texts from the third or marked and uncut copy.

Bribery could be another, with the hangout quote to begin with and then all that stuff on Hunt's blackmail.

I think we can even use my prepared sheets for my own editions for pasting up final copy for a 6x9 page and this will save much time. They will show margins, etc.

If "Hoover was my crony" is not enough for a separate Hoove subject, there must be enough on him and other high officials for which we could come up with an apt title.

Maybe one title could be L'Etat C'est Moi. The possibilities are there, I am confident, once the initial selection is made.

I am also confident there is NOW a market for this, but if it is delayed out there will not be. It could be influential if Dick can get distribution, and I believe he will consider approaching a major publisher if the stuff is good enough. I think it can be. I also think that if we can't get the other official texts we need, official copies, from the CIA or right from the SSB, Congress.

There is running on me and you say you are going to Gainesville, so here I'll list as I got it what I have from WH:

4/20/73, Nixon's broadcast 9:01 p.m.

4/17/73, his statement in briefing room 4:42 p.m.

4/30/73 text broadcast

5/22/73, text his statement

5/22/73, "Accompanying Statement by the President."

8/15/73 His address

8/22/73 Press Conference - c 30

9/5/73 33

10/3/73 34

11/22/73 His Statement

11/11/73 text AP etc

3/15/74 Him Ex Club Chi

3/19/74 Him NAB

Running out of time. I hope you are not intimidated by the bulk because we'll want I would say about 200 pages. Remember that while the statements and speeches we have are single spaced, the transcripts are double spaced and an honestly-selected presentation of thi length should be adequate. With the required blank space between selections to show editing, etc. if we begin with only 1/5 of this we have too much by far. Very far!

If we have to set type I fear we may be lost and much of the effectiveness with it.

I tried the raw idea out on Bob and Eleanor Farper when they were here for dinner Friday. They went for it. He did big. He is the local editor, you may remember, and I would take his as a fair representation of the view of Middle America.

My hunch is that if we are restricted to the statements that can be used in facsimile that I have we ll have enough to add to the juxtaposition.

Please don't mark yours up even if they are the same because the markings will show unless they are done with a special shade of blue to which the camera is insensitive and these are two-sided, so we will have to copy the second ~~side~~ side, meaning time and money.

Fortunately, to this moment no phone call. I have a stop to make before I leave for ~~til~~ and I can still do both by not rushing and correcting this.

Speed is important, so I do hope you can cut and paste what you have from the transcripts alone first. We can then, if necessary re-arrange and then work these other things in. It is particularly important if a major publisher can be interested. But unless it is soon the prospects diminish too much.

Phone call.

Don't be overwhelmed. It will work out and well.

Good luck in G.