

8/22/70

Dear Jim,

Thanks for the two things and for what you say will come. The title of one is attractive, but do you think you want to use a designation for something so bad so suggestive what so many might find so good? Escalatio?

If I do not acknowledge what you will yet mail, it will not be because I will not want and keep. I'm in a time bind, editing of a book to be hassled over, further writing, law suits, etc. I'm deep in 'em. I've filed one of which nobody has heard, am ready to file another of which, at least for a while, the same may be true, have several others to be worked over, etc.

Called you two days ago because what I had was what you could swing with. Wednesday I actually got a summary judgement vs DJ. Unheard of! They flunked out, maybe stupidity, maybe arrogance, maybe both causing. But they didn't show in court! Now they say they didn't know they had to. Of all things, DJ!

To ruin a good phrase, with enemies like this, who needs friends (like some of mine!).

There's more to come, I hope, for I've also got them dead to rights in another rarity, perjury. They don't often swear, but this time they did (besides at me). We'll see if I can do naything. I'll try. Or did you assume this?

For all the incredible things they've done in this case, must have them out of walls to climb.

Someday, when I get a paid speaking engagement out there, we can do a real one on this!

Best regards to everyone.

Thanks,

ESCALATIO...!

What happened when Lyndon Johnson replaced John Kennedy in the White House? Was there an "escalation" of hard times? A few quotes on the subject:

- (1) See the notes on "The First VIETNAMIZATION" Two hundred and twenty US troops actually were withdrawn from Vietnam as the first contingent of 1000 troops to be brought home by the end of 1963, and a total withdrawal by the end of 1965. Of course, the number of troops was increased enormously, and the plans for a withdrawal were shelved in Johnson's first month in office.
- (2) Cuba: Richard Goodwin talked with Che Guevara following the first Punta del Este conference. "...He (Che) indicated that Cuba might be prepared to pay compensation in trade for expropriated properties and to foreswear formal alliances, though not ideological loyalty, to the east..." (A THOUSAND DAYS, Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., paperback, p. 727)
Latin America:
It was at last at the Punta del Este conference in August, 1961, that the US showed a willingness to participate in a Latin American program for economic development on somewhat the same basis that had been so successful in Europe. By then, the elements of such a program had been thoroughly discussed and formulated over many years. Latin America was ready. US good faith seemed guaranteed by Kennedy's selection as Coordinator of the program of Teodoro Moscoso, the engineer of Puerto Rico's successful development program and an intimate of such Latin American liberals as Figueres of Costa Rica and Betancourt of Venezuela. IN THE SHOCK THAT FOLLOWED KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION AND THE EXCITEMENT OF JOHNSON'S SKILLFUL PUSHING THROUGH OF THE KENNEDY FISCAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS PROGRAMS, IT WAS SCARCELY NOTICED IN THE U.S. THAT MOSCOSO WAS EASED OUT, AND THE ALLIANCE QUIETLY RE-DIRECTED INTO THE OLD, TIME-TESTED CHANNELS OF LATIN AMERICAN POLICY. IT WAS VERY CAREFULLY NOTED THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA, HOWEVER --- JOYFULLY BY THE LARGE LANDOWNERS AND THEIR MILITARY AND POLITICAL LACKEYS, AND WITH SAD RESIGNATION BY THE POLITICAL LIBERALS AND THE PROMOTERS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. (David F. Ross, teacher of development economics in connection with developing countries, University of Kentucky, THE NEW REPUBLIC, SEPT. 28, 1968, p. 24)
- (3) "...The tragic death of President Kennedy shocked the country and MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTINUE THE T-F-X HEARINGS..."
(Clark R. Mollenhoff, THE PENTAGON, Putnam's Sons, NYC, 1967, p. 321)
- (4) "...State Senator Charles Herring...returned to write a furious report setting forth the Texas independent oil man's troubles in competing with the import programs dominated by the international giants. ... Herring and other representatives of the independents obtained a firm commitment that WHEN KENNEDY REACHED AUSTIN ON NOVEMBER 22, THE REPORT WOULD BE PUT IN HIS HANDS ALONG WITH A CONFIDENTIAL LETTER FROM HERRING WHICH TALKED OF THE IMPORT PROGRAM'S HAVING THE "POTENTIAL FOR SCANDAL...PERHAPS DWARFING THE TEAPOT DOME SCANDAL OF YESTERYEAR"... IN SHORT, SCANDALOUS FAVORITISM. THE REPORT AND THE LETTER NEVER WERE SEEN BY KENNEDY.
(Robert Sherrill, THE ACCIDENTAL PRESIDENT, paperback, pp. 125-126)

- (5) "...IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION, ACCORDING TO RESPONSIBLE WASHINGTON SOURCES, A PRESIDENTIAL ORDER SEALED THE McCLELLAN COMMITTEE FINDINGS FROM SCRUTINY, EVEN FROM CONGRESS ITSELF. SINCE THEN VARIOUS ESTES FRIENDS HAVE TRIED TO INDUCE HIM TO TALK, BUT HE ALWAYS ANSWERS "I CAN'T TALK UNLESS MY AUSTIN LAWYER APPROVES." AND COFER (Estes' attorney) DOES NOT..."
(J. Evetts Haley, A TEXAN LOOKS AT LYNDON, Palo Duro Press, Canyon, Texas, \$1, p. 144)
- (6) Peru: (summer, 1962) "...A military junta took over. This time, the reaction from Washington was prompt. PRESIDENT KENNEDY SUSPENDED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, HALTED MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND SAT BACK TO SEE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN...UNDER PRESSURE FROM U.S. BUSINESS INTERESTS IN PERU AND FROM THE PERUVIANS... WASHINGTON RECOGNIZED THE JUNTA A MONTH LATER.
"...Three weeks after Kennedy's assassination, President Johnson's first move in the hemisphere was to restore military and economic assistance to the Honduran and Dominican dictatorships..." (Nathan Miller, THE LATIN AMERICANS TEACH THE GREEKS, New Republic, July 22, 1967)
- (7) "... (Public opinion) heard Lyndon Johnson say in his inaugural address that 'We seek peace.' WITHIN A MONTH, HE HAD INITIATED THE BOMBING OF NORTH VIETNAM; WITHIN 12 MONTHS HE HAD INCREASED US TROOP STRENGTH IN VIETNAM FROM 103,000 TO 323,000; WITHIN 24 MONTHS HE HAD BOOSTED WAR EXPENDITURES FROM \$103 MILLION TO \$20.557 BILLION A YEAR..." (New Republic, Feb. 1, 1969, p. 7)

now to come
Jim

The First VIETNAMIZATION.

- Sept. 24, 1963 -- Defense Secretary McNamara and General Maxwell Taylor go to Vietnam on a "fact-finding" trip.
- Oct. 2, 1963 -- McNamara and Taylor return, report to President, White House issues a statement. THE MAJOR PART OF THE U. S. MILITARY TASK CAN BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF 1965. BY THE END OF THIS YEAR (1963) THE U.S. PROGRAM FOR TRAINING VIETNAMESE SHOULD HAVE PROGRESSED TO THE POINT WHERE ONE THOUSAND U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO SOUTH VIETNAM CAN BE WITHDRAWN. (GOP, p. 35; FOF, p. 70)*
- Oct. 31, 1963 -- "...WHEN SECRETARY McNAMARA AND GENERAL TAYLOR CAME BACK, THEY ANNOUNCED WE WOULD EXPECT TO WITHDRAW A THOUSAND MEN FROM SOUTH VIETNAM BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR, AND THERE HAS BEEN SOME REFERENCE TO THAT BY GENERAL HARKINS. IF WE ARE ABLE TO DO THAT, THAT WOULD BE OUR SCHEDULE. I THINK THE FIRST UNIT OR FIRST CONTINGENT WOULD BE 250 MEN WHO ARE NOT INVOLVED IN WHAT MIGHT BE CALLED FRONT-LINE OPERATIONS. IT WOULD BE OUR HOPE TO LESSEN THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS THERE BY ONE THOUSAND, AS THE TRAINING INTENSIFIES AND IS CARRIED ON IN SOUTH VIETNAM..." (President Kennedy, at his 63rd News Conference, Oct. 31, 1963)
- Nov. 1, 1963 -- General Paul Harkins, Military Commander in Saigon, South Vietnam, quoted in Stars & Stripes: VICTORY IN THE SENSE IT WOULD APPLY TO THIS KIND OF WAR IS JUST MONTHS AWAY, AND THE REDUCTION OF AMERICAN ADVISORS CAN BEGIN ANY TIME NOW. (GOP, p. 35)
- November 15, 1963 -- A military spokesman in Saigon states: ONE THOUSAND AMERICAN MILITARY MEN WILL BE WITHDRAWN FROM VIETNAM BEGINNING DECEMBER THIRD. (GOP, p. 36; READER, p. 393)
- November 22, 1963 -- JFK murdered in Dallas; LBJ sworn in.
- December 3, 1963 -- Two hundred and twenty US troops left Vietnam by air, the first part of the thousand-man force scheduled back by Christmas day. (FOF, p. 77)
- December 21-22, 1963 -- The administration confirms it has abandoned its goal of withdrawing most personnel by the end of 1965. (FOF, p. 77)

* GOP = THE WAR IN VIETNAM (prepared by the staff of the Senate Republican Policy Committee) Public Affairs Press, 419 New Jersey Ave., SE, Washington, D.C. --- \$ 1.00

FOF = SOUTH VIETNAM: 1961-65 (Facts on File) Facts on File, 119 W. 57th St., New York, N.Y., 10019 --- \$ 2.95

READER = THE VIETNAM READER (edited by Marcus Raskin & Bernard Fall) Vintage paperback --- \$ 2.45

Additional information on the continued escalation of the war in Vietnam may be obtained from THE POLITICS OF ESCALATION IN VIETNAM, by Schurmann, Scott and Zelnik, Fawcett Premier Books, --- \$.60.

Jim Eason,
KGO Radio
277 Golden Gate
San Francisco,
Calif.