

Congressman John Conyers  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701  
10/14/76

Dear Congressman Conyers,

This is prompted by the short story in today's Post reporting a DJ/FBI investigation of your 1972 campaign and your response.

If I did not tell you earlier of the misuse of the Department of Justice and the FBI to protect Ford I should have. I have several cases of it, one in particular now in court. In this they are misusing FOIA to hide Ford's earlier McCarthyite record. It puts him as the spokesman for racists and other political antediluvians. I have documentary proof of enough of the content of what DJ has been withholding from me for a very long time.

Because their stonewalling has such obvious political intent I've been telling my lawyer, Jim Lesar, that if the judge does not order the release of that transcript before the election or if DJ appeals, as I think probable, I want to hold a press conference and make what I have available.

There is more that is relevant to his confirmation hearing and his perjury at that time on other than the Patman committee. He stole the TOP SECRET and sold it commercially, having put the late Stiles, his former campaign manager, on the public payroll to be his ghost writer. Stealing these records and selling them was not enough for our First Unelected. He completely contorted content to hide the exposures of the sordid acts and policies of the FBI and CIA. If this was not enough he then hid all traces of all editing. DJ withheld this from me for something like five years to protect him. It is all in Whitewash IV, including excerpts from his testimony and a word-for-word comparison of the actual record and his hidden alterations of it.

If you do not have Whitewash IV one of your staff can pick it up from Jim Lesar, 1231 4 St., SW, 484-6023. He also has the records on Ford as McCarthy on the Warren Commission. We have used only some in court. Jim was uneasy about filing those with the more overt racism for fear the judge might take it the wrong way. He has them, however.

There is more indications of which you may recall my telling you.

I would be willing to make some available. This includes hidden CIA subsidy to Ford in his campaign to oust Justice Douglas. I have the necessary proofs. It also includes Watergate connection through this and through his later, voluntary political propaganda. I am willing to release this at a press conference, too. Or it can be picked up from others by summarizing what I have in rough draft. Jim also has a copy of that. Or it can be gone over here, where I have the documents not included in the rough draft of the book.

My recollection is not clear, but I think there is a link to Tungsun Mark, too.

I'll be in Washington late this afternoon. If I have time I'll call your office. I'll be there again next Wednesday, the 20th, if you or any of your people would like to see me that afternoon when what takes me there is over.

Ford is not competent in simple dirty tricks. He once had an FBI investigation of himself made. Hoover pulled a transparently phoney one, carefully making a record of its phoniness. I published this, including in facsimile, in my second book. However, this same Ford, when the FBI was under attack for its dossiers, actually said that he had no knowledge of whether there was any FBI file on him or not.

Best wishes,

Harold Weisberg

# Clarify Probe Role, Ford Told

*Post 11/12/76*  
The chairman of the House banking committee said yesterday that President Ford should make a prompt, public explanation of conflicting accounts about Ford's role in blocking a 1972 congressional investigation of the laundering of money in the Watergate scandal.

Rep. Henry S. Reuss (D-Wis.) said in a statement from Milwaukee that Watergate Special Prosecutor Charles Ruff should also conduct a special inquiry

into the squelching of the 1972 investigation by Reuss' committee, which then was headed by Rep. Wright Patman (D-Tex.), who died last year.

The retrospective controversy warmed up again in light of remarks by former White House counsel John W. Dean III yesterday morning on NBC-TV's "Today" show.

Dean named Richard Cook, former chief lobbyist for the Nixon White House in the House of Representa-

tives, as "the man who did the legwork" and dealt with then House Minority Leader Ford, among others, about blocking the Patman investigation.

During confirmation hearings on his nomination to become Vice President, Ford acknowledged meeting with Republican members of the banking committee about the inquiry, but he said he did so on his own initiative and denied he was

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contacted in the effort by the White House staff.

However, Dean, when asked to check his records as White House counsel regarding his contacts with Cook, said they showed about 15 contacts with Cook between Sept. 6 and Oct. 12, 1972. In more than half a dozen of these conversations, Dean told NBC, Cook reported on meetings with Ford about the Watergate problem.

The House committee blocked the proposed investigation on Oct. 3, 1972, by a vote of 20 to 15, with all 14 Republicans on the committee voting against the investigation and joined by six Democrats.

Now a lobbyist for Lockheed, Cook accused Dean of "cheap huckstering" for his just-published Watergate book. Cook said that "despite John Dean's repeated and frantic requests, I never spoke with Mr. Ford about the need to deny Mr. Patman's request for subpoena power."

Cook said he met with Dean on the issue "because Dean was frantic" that the hearings might be held. But Cook added pessimistically:

"Don't tell me that anyone [disputing] Dean can come out other than second best. John Dean titillates the whole world. He could nail anyone ..."

White House press secretary Ron Nessen was quoted as saying that Ford would stand by his congressional testimony and would have nothing to add.

Two other House Democrats, Elizabeth Holtzman (N.Y.) and John Conyers Jr. (Mich.), joined in calling on prosecutor Ruff to determine whether Ford told the truth during his 1973 vice presidential confirmation hearings.

The Patman committee staff had been trying to determine where the money used to pay the Watergate burglars had come from, but the investi-

gation was stymied when 14 Republicans and 6 Democrats voted against granting the subpoena power necessary to keep the investigation going forward.

*Post 10/14/76*  
**Justice Department Eyes  
Conyers' 1972 Campaign**

The Justice Department is investigating allegations that violations of federal election finance laws occurred in the 1972 re-election campaign of Rep. John Conyers Jr. (D-Mich).

Reliable sources said yesterday that the allegations of wrongdoing appear to involve members of Conyers' staff rather than the congressman. They were unable to specify their precise nature.

The sources added that the probe began in August and is being conducted by the FBI under the direction of the Justice Department's Criminal Division. The FBI's inquiries, the sources said, are still in a preliminary stage, and have not involved subpoenas of records or the questioning of Conyers or his staff.

However, the sources continued, the Justice Department asked the Federal Election Commission Tuesday for financial statements and campaign information filed by Conyers from 1972 to the present.

Conyers said yesterday that he knew nothing about the investigation, but added: "I'm not surprised because of the heat I'm putting on Ford." On Tuesday, he called for an investigation of whether President Ford committed perjury in testifying before Congress about his efforts as House minority leader to halt a House banking committee investigation of laundering of campaign funds during Watergate.

The Detroit congressman added that he could think of nothing in his 1972 campaign that would lead to an investigation. He said, "Christ, I don't think I even raised over \$10,000. I can't even remember whether I had an opponent or not."