

10/17/72 Read Jim's 10/13 when we got back. I've about enough time while Lil is getting ready for going to tax school to answer your question about Bill Costello. I presume he is retired. He didn't look good when last I saw him, some years ago. He was then Mutual's White House correspondent. I hear Mutual infrequently, haven't heard him in years, but I did for some time after I last did see him. His wife was then teaching art, I believe, and is a painter. I believe but I'm not sure that she took ill at some time when I knew him. He had a private office in the Investment Bldg at 15 & K St, rather a double office, one broken into two plus a reception room, aside from his with Mutual, which was then in the Sheraton Park. This was before they moved to the National Press Bldg. He and his secretary and other Mutual people, by coincidence, were my customers. I remember Richard Rendell, a farright Englishman whose wife was a dear. They lived at the Broadmoor. There came a time, about when he began his book on Nixon, when Bill moved from his private, that is, separate office to another in the same building, the one farthest from the entrance to the suite Tommy (the Cork) Corcoran had, on the 10th floor, part of the southwest front and the entire west side of the corridor running north and south. Bill's was the most northwest of all these. He was generally in good spirits, but look pale and weak. He had the limp, of course. Since I stopped farming, roughly the time of the JFK ass., I can't have seen him more than a couple of times. One thing that might interest you is his part in my challenging Khrushchev to peaceful competition in chickens. Bill was the last of several friends on whom I'd tried the notion after drafting the letter. He called a guy he knew in USIA, I think in charge of European desk, apparently a German named Walter. Walter asked me to rush over (got a ticket for forgetting to feed the parking meter). They fell in love with the idea, asked me to add an awkward paragraph inviting Khrushchev to our farm - he was then here and would have gone past to go to Camp David for that spirit there - and I supposed got good mileage out of it. I was serious. As I told Kh, I didn't believe he or Nixon meant it but I did. It would up with State Dept asking me to go to Russia to teach them how to raise better chickens, but for some reason it fell through. Would have been the first or one of the first of these exchanges.... Just checked the new DC phone book, just out. Wm A is listed as "counsellor" at 1511 K St., NW, 783-7900. That is the address and number of the Corcoran office, so I suppose he is part of the lobbying part of that operation now if he wasn't also then. I'd supposed he and Tommy were friends from FDR days, when Bill had the CBS net radio 11 p.m. news show, then the big one at night... I guess that when he returned from Tokyo after you saw him he and CBS had a fight, he wanted to take it easier, or he wanted to start into this, something I think CBS would not have accepted as Mutual did... It is surprising the number of FDR "liberals" who became lobbyists, including for the fascists like Trujillo, and the number of them I later came to know, from cabinet members like Homer Cummings down. Maybe I'll look Bill up again next time I'm at the Post, a block away.