

Dear Js,

11/7/74

The only clips I've taken time for since returning are those valuable ones with Jim's 11/3. It is good to get another's input again!

I've not seen Waldron's reporting. I know from Paul Valentine that he had a nonsense conspiract-to-be-disclosed story the first day that made trouble for Paul, who couldn't get away with the truth, that it was all b.s. However, I don't think this had anything to do with the Post's deficiencies, unless it made it easier for finks to fink.

Your expectation on the reporting is, I think, the actuality. They did what they had to do. The amount of work they did greatly exceeds the amount of reporting they did. So, I think Paul and Martin anticipate further writing and I knew Nick Chriss has already done it because he did it in my room and on my borrowed typewriter and with documents I supplied. I don't think he made the deadline for a Sunday piece, though.

Paul and Martin did not use notebooks. They used legal pads and filled them. They took more notes than our official notetaker, Livingston. But I dare not ask them for copies. They'd misunderstand.

All these guys, however, have a conflict with their past. None spotted what all should have when it was happening right in front of them. Paul's guilt is reflected in what he dragged in by the invisible heels in the story you sent, that Ray had repented he was pleading voluntarily. After the documentary evidence he heard and saw???

Ray Breshears is a Ferri-type roverend and as you guessed, homosexual. He did live with Ferrie and there all his contact with reality ends. (ref. JDW's 11/4 note on KCBS 10/29/74) He has been exploiting this in every way possible. He went back to N.O. and made such a nuisance of himself the G. ridden people ran him out of town. Literally. Choice jail. He has been so far out, so irresponsible, that work for another is not impossible. However, I tend toward Occam and suggest he is promoting himself.

Je's ENK compendium is informative because I had not been able to keep up that far back with what I had to prepare for. Looking at it all together the correlations seems clear enough. Here again I'd suggest it is not isolated. More likely the deciding factor. Any man who is young and wants to be President now has to be nuts. Nobody can possibly rectify all the LBJ and RNN heres Ferd is so sedulously compounding. Moreover, when the tough get going when the going gets rougher, there will be a quest for goats. We are in for the deepest trouble.

My construction problems are minor compared to yours but I have some. A door to repair (without a ~~mutual~~ helpful neighbor) and a welloap and two sets of stairs to complete pouring if our freehosting farm tenant does not return to finish them. My more immediate worry is whether in November I should mow the tee-long grass! And I've got to get to cutting fireweed soon. But except for the cost, these things are good for us at our age.

Tennessee: I think that under the circumstances we did remarkably well and under any circumstances better than merely good. I think that when I thought of it I mailed you carbons a few times from down there and more from here, not knowing whether they'd interest. It was quite a challenge. With a real criminal lawyer, an experienced courtroom type with average courage we'd have made legal history with what emerged from the earlier trip and what we snaffled this trip because the baddies were left uncertain about what I had when they considered what I showed them. And how I discussed it. It is the opposite of Valentine's story that the suspect was edited into error. We had copies of the intercepted legal and judicial Ray correspondence, from the prosecutor. I've already mailed an effort to compensate for a lawyers' oversight on continuing surveillance.

Peer Mae! She has to live her fictions or life has no meaning for her.

Dr. Lundgren: Am I wrong in thinking that the family and Dr. Tkach have both been scarce around fallen GL's room? Could he run a country when he couldn't run his own immediate affairs? I'll bet he cancelled his medical insurance once he knew he could lay it onto our tax bills and now blames others. Am I wrong in seeing the possibility of a perverse self-destructiveness in all of this? More than an excuse to avoid testimony. Real paranoia, too?

13 Sep 74

Sending for no particular reason except, perhaps, as addition to the reasons usually given, illness of son, Chappaquiddick, etc., and possible origin of threats to the Kennedy children. * And because I enjoy seeing dates fall into place so neatly.

Je

*9 Sep 74

hint of such changes.

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When Lansing newsmen asked whether he would run in 1976, he repeated the answer he has clung to for almost two years: He won't decide until late in 1975.

But one week later [19? Sep]* during a three-day swing that began in Cincinnati and ended in California, the senator suddenly abandoned that stock answer.

In Los Angeles, he said he expects to indicate his intention late this year or early in 1975. *

*Michael Harris, SFC correspondent, Los Angeles, gives the date of Kennedy statement as 13 Sep 74. (SFC 14 Sep 74)

Kennedy announces he will not be a presidential candidate in 1976, 23 Sep 74: "This decision is firm, final and unconditional. There is absolutely no circumstance or event that will alter the decision."

Excerpts from undated story by Joanne Omang, WXP 27 Sep 74:

[12 Sep 74] Richard Drayne, Senator Kennedy's press spokesman, said Kennedy's office was notified September 12 "by the FBI of Boston that they had information there was a proposed conspiracy to kidnap one of the children in the Kennedy family."

[13 Sep 74] Treasury Department spokesmen said the protective details authorized by President Ford began September 13 for ... three of Robert and Ethel Kennedy's 11 children and one nephew. "It wasn't clear which of the kids was the target," said Treasury Undersecretary Edward C. Schmults.

[20 Sep 74] The temporary protection ended on September 20 and there are no plans for further action other than a continuing investigation of the threat, according to a Secret Service spokesman.

[22 Sep 74] Reports circulated yesterday that the children of Senator Edward M. Kennedy ... were the targets of threats on Sunday [22 Sep], the day before he announced he would not seek the presidency in 1976 but both Schmultz and a spokesman for the senator said there were no such threats on that day.

(Boston)

Excerpts from AP story/ SFC
10 Sep 74:

[9 Sep 74] Senator Edward Kennedy ... was booed off a stage and splattered with a tomato [today] when he tried to address an angry crowd of anti-busing demonstrators.

....

A crowd estimated by police at 8,000 to 10,000 persons shouted insults, chanted "Impeach Kennedy," turned their backs on the Senator and sang "God Bless America" when he stepped to the microphone.

As Kennedy and his aides climbed down from the platform and walked briskly around the edge of the crowd, several women leaped in front of him and shook their fists. At least one struck him on the shoulder.

Excerpts from undated story by Loye Miller Jr., Knight News Service, SF Sunday Ex & Chr., 22 Sep 74:

Reporters travelling with Sen. Ted Kennedy on a recent political swing noticed two things that were new:

First, Kennedy suddenly said he soon will indicate whether he expects to run for president in 1976 - moving up his announced timetable by nearly a year.

But even as the Massachusetts senator accelerated his '76 scenario, he seemed to find the hurly-burly of campaigning far less enjoyable than he usually does.

....

Only 10 days ago [12? Sep], during a trip to address a friendly labor audience in Lansing, Mich., Kennedy gave no hint of such changes.

His partisan speech was full of fire and feeling, the sort of sharp performance he can deliver almost effortlessly.

When Lansing newsmen asked whether he would run in 1976, he repeated the answer he has clung to for almost two years: He won't decide until late in 1975.

But one week later [19? Sep]† during a three-day swing that began in Cincinnati and ended in California, the senator suddenly abandoned that stock answer.

In Los Angeles, he said he expects to indicate his intention late this year or early in 1975. *

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