

November 17, 1973

Dear Harold,

Enclosed is a transcript of Ford's testimony on November 5 to the Senate Rules Committee. The printed volume should be publicly available in about ten days, I was told.

Bob Smith says the Szulc book will state that E. Howard Hunt was in Mexico City during August and September, 1963. His source is Szulc himself.

Andrew St. George called Bud at midnight the other night--Thursday, I believe--with the result that Bud represented him at his appearance Friday before the Armed Services Committee. According to Bud, Symington is trying to protect Helms and it was a very rough executive session. St. George took the First Amendment. I believe this all results from the article in Harper's insinuating that Helms had advance knowledge of the Watergate bugging.

I told Carmen to hold off on sending checks to the Department of Justice on either your case or the Committee's case. Bud and Bill then agreed. Bill says that he thinks they've technically got a right to assess costs against the losing party but that it just isn't done ordinarily. They agree that we should let the Department try to enforce it in court, if they dare. If they do, I have a trick up my sleeve, something neither Bud nor Bill has thought of, which I think could turn the tables on them. I'll tell you about it when you come in town.

Are you coming in town Tuesday? I think it might be a good idea for you to see Executive Action before you appear on TV, just so you can't be called for criticizing something you haven't seen. If you want to come in Monday night and see it with me, you can stay here Monday night.

Harold, I suggest that you may want to take the following tack during your appearance with Lane: Recent reviews of "Executive Action" have criticized it as an exploitation film. I agree with that judgment. However, the press itself is partly to blame for this atmosphere of exploitation. Where serious efforts are being made in court to use the laws of this country to open up the suppressed information about the assassination, the press has not covered them. For instance, I have filed suit for the spectrographic analyses made in connection with the FBI's investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy. In an affidavit I have charged that the only reasons that the FBI is withholding the reports of these spectrographic analyses is because they would show that the FBI deceived the Warren Commission members and that the reports actually disprove the official government theory of the assassination. The Government has not responded to my accusation, nor has the press carried any mention of it.

