

Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701

10/21/73

Dear Mac,

Mal and I want to thank you for your forthright and principled position in the newest authoritarian display by our Glorious Leader. We sort of take for granted that you will take principled positions and that you know we do, as we always have, support you in them. However, if my estimate of the present situation is at all close to right, this is the beginning of an exceptionally bad period. I think we all owe the time to let those who, like you, show a disposition to deter evil, that the mail statistics back you up.

At the same time, not knowing what you know or what you believe, I again express a caution I articulated I think back in March, one that time and events have since validated. I know, or at least I'm confident I know, some of what has not yet come out. I made elliptical reference to it in March. If you recall that letter and the enclosure, showing what I was working on and had been foreclosed from on Nixon's property, it may give you some confidence in my judgement on this.

All officialdom seems to be the captive of fear. Fear of the man and that of which he is capable and fear of the facts. There is ample reason for both fears, but can the country survive them in anything like the form it which it has been if they are indulged?

I think not.

And I think if there are not enough like you and you are not at this juncture willing to confront the man, later will be too late.

If your staff has kept you informed, there is a prima facie case that despite the attractiveness of those honorable old eyebrows wobbling on the tube to the accompaniment of sincere indignation and the most pertinent of the scriptures and the law, the committee is pulling its punches and withholding what it should not withhold. It is doing precisely what Congress passed the Freedom of Information Law to try to keep the executive agencies from doing. It has even adopted Nixon's definition of "national security." Because of what the committee has denied me I have had to put out considerable effort to do it, but I have reconstructed some of its suppressions. The net effect is ugly. It hides fascist planning. Knowing the questions they have not asked and the answers they would have gotten, unless there was perjury is even less reassuring. The accurate Nixonian reading of this and too many other things like it coupled with the urgency of his need are what impelled his newest precipitation of a crisis.

One of them is going to be one too many. The later it is in coming the more serious the repercussions. The longer the confrontation is delayed the less the chance of stopping this power-mad madman.

I hope you will not regard this as excessive language. I have been putting things together in a book for which I have neither contract nor prospects. But I am writing it. I am well into it, and including this newest, with more than 75,000 words of what I have written retyped, I have no changes to make. It is because my understanding has been correct that I have no changes to make. If I did not expect exactly this, I did expect this kind of development and more, so the book is organized to permit their inclusion without rewriting. This writing has entailed an extensive review of the record. More unflattering words are, I believe, justified.

Worse is inevitable, so I hope that by now you are part of not only a majority but a willing, courageous majority. If you are not, desperate days are ahead for all of us.

We're glad you're there, glad you had the principle and the courage to take a leading position when others feared to, and very glad to know you are not the kind of man to abdicate.

What we are not glad about but would like to have hope about is how many others will not stand and be counted. I fear the fear I have observed.

The time may come when you will be asking questions at a hearing. I imagine that there will be an opportunity when an Attorney General is nominated, if not before. It is probable that I can then be of help. If I can, let me know.

Our best to Ann and the boys and again our thanks.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg