

Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701

3/23/73

Dear Mac,

You put it subtly and with consummate diplomacy when you said yesterday that many unhappy things happened on L. Patrick Gray's watch.

I've never been in the Navy, but I've sailed many a stormy sea. My landlubber's notion is that what happens on any man's watch affects the entire crew and the ship. For this reason I have avoided communicating to you what I ordinarily would have, much more than I have in the enclosed letter of the 15th to two of your colleagues. You sail in this cruddy ship (not that you don't deserve a much more worthy vessel), and I don't want you lost if the man on watch steers to the rocks.

So, in order that you may pass safely between the rocks, between the Scylla of your heart and conscience and the Charybdis of the vote I hope you will cast, I am also enclosing Dean's letter to me which, in my view, makes ^{Gray} ~~him~~ much less innocent and no by-standing victim. Gray knew Hunt was on the White House payroll during the entire period of his criminal activity, yet he did what he did.

Please take my word for it, Mac, there is much that has not yet been made public. I don't know what the convicted will do when they see the locking doors more clearly, but they can say what they have not and if it will lighten their burden, I believe they will. If they do not do this spontaneously and if I am correct in thinking they can't now invoke the Fifth Amendment, they will when your committee holds its Watergate hearings. Or face longer sentences. It is inevitable that further criminality will out. At the least it will involve the Creeps. I know what I know. I assume there are many inside Justice and the FBI who know more. In time they will leak, as they have already, but in the future much more.

The FBI simply cannot have missed what I picked up from standard, published sources. This means there had to have been a considerable story on Hunt that is not yet put together in print. They can't have not traced these leads, as I have without leaving home. I really do believe another stink is probable before the Congressional elections. All of this was the responsibility of Gray and all of it is S.O.P for the FBI.

(It is immaterial to my purposes, but I do not believe Liddy was the boss. He was not then on the White House payroll, Hunt was, thus the version that has Liddy the boss.)

When the hearings are printed, I would appreciate a set. If it could be of any service to you to go over transcripts or galleys earlier, I would find the time.

In the long run, with what can yet be expected to emerge about the fact and the FBI/Gray record, I think the vote I would expect of you will be better than the lesser evil. I think by the time of the next election, it will be a plus.

Our sympathies for the position in which you are and our best to you all.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg