

JDW- one can only persist in trying. Elfin fears for his own position.

And Horrock et al for what they failed to do.

P.S. 3/2

I start early and work late to attempt to do as much as possible of what I have undertaken. This morning that included the hourly news summary on Westinghouse radio at 4 a.m. and the CBS net news of the same hour from Chicago, followed by Chicago's news until the item was handled again.

Last night I almost concluded by expressing the fear that Gee Whiz would be followed by Ho Hum. I feared suggesting it would feed unwillingness to look at what I have or to believe that one unknown man can do what so many in the media did not. This morning's electronic handling tells me that reaction was correct, the Ho Hum has started.

At 4:30 Westinghouse is repeating the same tapes it used last night before I went to bed. It does not include the Post's story mentioned - certainly not as the lead item - on CBS, that the grand jury wanted to indict Nixon and Jaworski talked them out of it on the ground the Constitution prohibits it.

When to CBS an older story is hotter - that Heath has decided to stay in office after losing - there seems even less reason to believe the media will not become more diligent.

Jaworski's version is an interpretation of the Constitution but it is by no means a provision. You will recall I discussed Jaworski and his record with you in some detail and strongly urged you to read an old file I collected, including some of his letters I have and John Hanrahan read and took those he wanted, some 40 pages of documents. Because this is a nebulous area and because there was not in the indictments what I have and believe should have been in them - the 6/20/72 memory-holing - I am sorry that you did not read this file. I realize you are not entirely free in this matter so all I can do is take these few minutes to express regret and to renew the offers.

While writing this, not what I'd planned to begin the day's work, I am monitoring the all-news stations I can receive here. CBS's New York station, WCBS, had no mention of any Watergate story in its 4:45 a.m. headlines and no reference to any Watergate story in the coming quarter hour. From Providence, R.I. to Dublin to Syria they have news, but not from Washington. It is not news that a grand jury for the first time in history wants to indict a President. Nor to its large, clear-channel audience is these unprecedented criminal charges legitimate second-day news even without developments.

Disagreements are what is news are not impossible to comprehend. Refusal to look at what might be is.

I have been spending the moments I could find in going over notes I made until I decided to write my own book(s). These are book length. I have progressed only to the time of the original indictments, mid-September 1972. The record of the media is more dismal than I represented to you. My record is more of a satisfaction, if it is empty.

At 5 a.m. Heath is still CBS' net top news.

In going over these notes I found a reference to Newsweek's investigations, including in Mexico (issue dated 9/18/72, p. 40). It appears that with the expenditure of considerable time and money Newsweek was able to develop less than I generated without leaving home. I do not intend criticism of your people and if I did not believe them to be competent I would not be mentioning this. Because I am satisfied they are competent, I express the belief that they developed fact for which they lacked the background to attribute meaning. Newsweek may have a policy that precludes it but I would welcome an opportunity to ~~swap~~ go over anything brought back from Mexico. For example, your team should have probed the Paseo de la Reforma if only for information about the Banco Internacional and Ogarrio. There is other reason to have done this and I'm confident they had no knowledge of it. And they may have not understood Ogarrio information as I may be able to.

Elfin asked me for headlines the day he saw me. This gets to one of those I gave him. I have Washington-Mexican connections unreported, which has to mean undiscovered, and with central-character Watergate involvement. "Character" plural and leading to both Nixon and Ford before he was elevated. I tell you this much so you can see I might be able to find meaning where others may not have.