

Call from John Lindsay, Newsweek, evening 2/23/74 MW 2/24/74

Lindsay phoned a little before 7. We spoke until about 8:15. He seems to have recommended that Newsweek accept my offers and he said he was impressed with my performance, without saying it or putting it this way.

He began by laughing as he told me how he had enjoyed my letter, in part because what I said had to be true he found was, in part because I had correctly detected the "scientific" dishonesties of which he had proof in the Dektor Report and what he said was even worse, the Science article on it. (One that I remember is they used a "her 4,000 instead of a 5,000, and while Dektor said it off the bat, Science buried it at the end.)

This gave me an opportunity to address, without making it specific, what I think is the major problem, any major element of the media acknowledging that an old chicken farmer can do and does regularly what the combined brains it has bought can not and does not.

Early he said he understood that Kalmbach is copping a plea, one count. I think he said it will be "ouday. We chatted about that after I laughed and said Ehrlichman had immediately established a business in which he will not need a lawyer's license. "e had notice that, too, as well as the fact that he had seen no reporting of it. (When it seemed not inadvisable I asked "have you seen that reported." "y the end of our conversation there were a number of these items.)

Elfin was noncommittal but the proposal was forwarded to New York Thursday. They did meet Tuesday as planned last Saturday but didn't have time. He thinks Elfin took no position in order to escape any responsibility. With the future of the valuable properties in jeopardy, this is the loyal, dedicated position - protect yourself.

When we had talked about the Dektor report for a while I told him that this is the kind of thing about which I have made records and offered the one I had made. I told him that over and above all he had learned there was an irremedial flaw in the Dektor and WH approach that could not be answered. "e recalled that the moment Rose Mary got the machine she used it and this happened. Then I went into the Alsop attack and showed that it was based on a lie, that the bridge had been thrown away. It can be replaced at any time. But, I said, the alteration in the electrical components was not by the panel, it was earlier and not reported in any of the Dektor stories: by Steve Bull. "e then remembered it. I asked,

"Is this a story?" Affirmed. "Have you seen it reported anywhere?" No.

I told him that I hoped he realized I was giving him/then every possible chance to test and evaluate me and what I do in what I did and said, to the degree that seemed safe enough, and I realized that if he were not honorable it would be a loss. "e said he had seen this. I said I had taken major aspects of the story and done two things: told him what had been missed and what it was that was missed, and that these were current stories. He again agreed. (Because he did not react, I supposed they did not go for the Archives deal story.) On the Archives gift I told him that I had not only told him what the story was but where he could get the proof, even to phone numbers. "e laughed and agreed. I then said that if he didn't want to use the phone, he could come here and find it in my files, that I knew what the answers were because I had them. "e said he would like to come up but would prefer auspices and I did not press it.

My point was to try to avoid seeming like a know-it-all while keeping feeding him a succession of new stories, in confidence, on the chance he is again consulted or goes in with an independent comment. So, I tried to explain how I had these things and that the nature of the work I had been doing for a decade took me into interesting by-ways. Here I illustrated with the Atlanta kidnapping, that I had anticipated a "toner type had done it, that I had an extensive file to which he was welcome on Stoner/MSRP, how I knew him, etc., and the "infeman stuff and how I got it and what I did with it. "e laughed when I said that on returning it the FBI avoided the customary letter of thanks and the agent read what he had been told to say from a yellow pad (the Nixon touch?)

His own belief is that one man in the world only could have fucked up a simple job like that tape erasure, which I found amusing: The Leader of the Western World.