

JMS (PH), Your 7/7

The Watergate Capers
Cuban/Munitions arrests

7/12/72 HM

- most clips under

Haven't yet read your clips because other things kept me busy until now, almost supper-time. I'll put the clips in chrono order and comment as I read. But first let me report that today I decided to share with Bob Woodward of the Wash. Post what I had not told him about Hunt and his connection to the literary agency while with CIA. He seemed interested and will see if he can carry further. The Post had a story not by him this a.m. on an alleged "Mr. X" Douglas Caddy won't identify before the grand jury. He has come out more than 50 times to consult with the lawyers, more than those I earlier reported to you. Times, that is, and it now seems he has claimed a lawyer-client relationship with everyone, including this Mr. X., and the gov't claims it is frustrating the work of the grand jury. A better way to protect the mysteryman I can't imagine. Lawyer client? He claims his phone calls started about midnight, not the earlier reported after the 2:30 a.m. arrest, and admits a half dozen incoming and by him. I had conjectured someone like Colson might be Mr. X, but Woodward seems to think it could be the head of the p.r. agency for which Caddy and Hunt both worked. Maybe someone else in it we don't know, too.

Woodward had a Sunday story on the Cuban who monopolizes the narcotics business in D.C. in Sunday's paper. He lives at 2121 P St., NW, which just happens to be Caddy's address too. He is now aware that the Cubans seem to have taken over most of the hard-stuff business on the east coast, not just D.C., and has the Harper story, which he also finds interesting. He knows of Kessler now, the relationship with Harper so like De Moe's, and with the missing Gambino and who his uncle is/was. All that was in the N.O. papers I got earlier from another source, by accident. Not regular source on them.

One of the interesting oddities I failed to note in my earlier memo is the presence in N.O. of Michael Pollack of the New York DJ strike force. If he was there on this case, DJ has to be in the position of presuming a mob connection with this anti-Castro caper of he was borrowed for the Garrison case of this one, the latter two much less likely. The AP 7/4 story says he was there on this case. The N.O. papers I've seen so far add a few details on the getting of the boom stuff and that Carlo is the uncle.

I did not earlier see the 6/19 story on Michael Dorman's interview with Carlos Marcello, said to be the first M ever permitted. Dorman is the author of a sycophantic book on Percy Foreman, "King of the Court Room". I have no trouble believing that personally Marcello is out of the racket. I could believe he has financial interests through others, but the word from N.O. reporters is that he was getting so rich with legit. activities and investment, he would be crazy to be in crooked deals of the mob. This is not to say that he would not be in on or cut in on their deals. His brother seems to be one of the pin-ball operators in N.O.

Bugging: suggest downgrading stories put out immediately that the equipment used went out with bloomers. Nobody saw it, there was no official description of it, the description that was printed contains at least one error, and we don't know the purposes. If these stories don't say it, one in the Wash Star said the device was wired to a watch, arranged to be a timer. This and the size of the batteries suggests to me it was to be a long-time deal with no electric current available, so the watch could turn it off nights and save juice.

By the way, Woodward has been tracing where Hunt was when. He said he'd let me know so I might be able to attribute significance. He is satisfied all his other official assignments were covers I hope he does. He wants the FBI reports I have (Please not-if you can send two of those on Suarez, he says the middle initial is "A" and I can give him one, if they are clear, two pp on one sheet ok.)

McCord's face is familiar from pictures printed, but I can't place it.

Don't think I knew before that his FBI job was radio. Makes it less likely he'd be in on an unsophisticated deal, that he'd use or permit to be used equipment unsuited to the need. He seems to be the only one of the crew with this expertise.

Didn't see earlier report that Colson went before Ehrlichman and raised his right hand and swore he knew nothing about this. Does that mean more than if he spat?

If Hunt left the country, as reported in clips, his lawyer says he is in country and willing to be questioned.

These clips quote Mrs. Hunt as having said in May that he was still working at W.H. It

told press last day for which Hunt was paid was March 29. Don't be deceived, wife right. Hunt was paid quarterly, according to Woodward.

Deception W.H. Clear intent in putting it this way because they didn't fire him until after his name came out and that was a few days after the arrests.

Like their telling the Star he didn't work at the W.H. They didn't say not for the W.H. Few do. They have an adjoining building, The Executive Office Bldg.

There is something missing in all this. Perhaps the identity of Mr. X will lead to it.

Another factor has been over-simplified to the point where it may lead us to look too exclusively in one direction. The Cuban involvement and the CIA connections can't be ignored. But there seems to be another common link: farout right. Some of Hun't writing could have come from Belmont, Mass. These Cubans are all far-right, but it is possible that they are into whatever they are into not because they are Cubans but from their political beliefs.

If Hunt was the wheeler on the Bay of Pigs he is as persuasive with others as most right-wing "thinkers" are self-deceiving. He could have actually believed the Bay of Pigs could have worked. Somewhere above him had to be some better judgment. But he seems to have sold an awful lot of supposedly intelligent and "liberal" people on feasibility. This included the incredible fiction that there was a large underground, of which there was neither proof nor reason to hope. But he appears to have actually believed it. Such people are capable of limitless insanities.