

8/17/73

Dear Barry,

I have just seen Kneeland's NYTimes 7/28/73 story, Ehrlichman Notes indicate Plan to Limit Hunt Impact, drawing upon five of those 10 pages of notes Ehrlichman said he made of interviews.

I believe the Post had a story on this 7/28 also.

Perhaps in reading after the passing of time I may see what I did not earlier.

These notes supposedly shorthand Shapiro's representation of Colson's recommendations for countering something expected of Hunt. Story here says it quotes "in part":

- A. 1 Restate exec priv re crim conduct
- And on Mr. Colson's recommendation:
- C 1 An investigator reports to pi E & FF damaging e (circled)
- 2 Pi orders it be given US Atty
- 3-Then HH anti-climax on Mon

The appears to date to 4/13/73.

I don't know if "B" is all that is omitted or not, but I'd like to see the entire thing and any of these other Ehrlichman notes dealing with Hunt, if copying is not too much trouble for Maureen.

I suggest that while this seems to have been treated with an air of confidence, it introduces a weakness that can be interpreted as indicating some desperation. If there is reference to "An investigator" and his "report" after the Ervin committee was established and this would be a phoney, they'd have a new hassle over failure to produce the "report" or if they were to claim it was a verbal report, failure to identify the investigator. The same kind of problem with US Atty. This also assumes that Fielding will lie past the end and assigns him a new role seemingly hidden, as a sort of Dean replacement.

Why need Colson have involved Nixon in this? Why not have Ehrlichman or Fielding do what had to be done?

Inherent in this, I think, is something they have or think they have on Hunt. And knowledge of whatever it is that Hunt can say that will hurt them.

I phoned Maureen to leave a message about the page of The Glass House Tapes alleging that McCord was in Dealey Plaza and that Hunt was the payoff man. Paul Valentine is familiar with the career of the "author", a former fink named Tackwood. Paul was on vacation. I then thought this was a fake added to the tapes made earlier. Getting the page was part of the inquiry I made when I first heard this improbability would be in the book. I was familiar with the first account of the tapes and couldn't imagine something like this being omitted. What was in is that Tackwood was to have had some kind of provocateur's role when the convention was slated for San Diego, and the tape was made before Watergate. I have just gotten a copy of McCord's article. The box giving his biography would seem to place him in Europe when JFK was assassinated. I also found it interesting that the time he became a Chinese expert is fuzzed over. The "ghost" on The Glass House tapes, due this month from Avon, is Donald Freed, who co-authored a real stinker, Executive Action, with Mark Lane (Dell). Dalton Trumbo wrote the movie script. The movie is to be distributed by National General. Financing was by McOvern supporter Herb Magidson. The spot is a meld of almost all the nut assassination theories. I can pinpoint most of the sources, one of which was a black book in which SDECE certainly figured, perhaps CIA also. While I know Lane to be without scruple, I don't figure this to be a black book, if it has the same effect. The same goes for The Glass House Tapes. It can be merely irresponsible.