

Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701
8/24/74

Dear Congressman Edwards,

Your views in the committee's report as quoted in yesterday's Post are the most relevant, the most pertinent, the most understanding I have seen. Congratulations! At least one political leader has had the courage to spell it out so the people can have a chance to understand.

The issue is and has been tyrant and all that means.

And the phoniness of "national security" is an essential in this.

That fraudulent misrepresentation is something ^{with} ~~upon~~ which I have been contending for years. I mean as it relates to the intense work I've been doing for ten years.

Soon you will be receiving a hastily-done book I laid aside my Watergate book to prepare. It will be a private printing for a combination of reasons. It goes into this official deception in a documented way that I think will illustrate it even more comprehensively than anything I know about The Watergate can. On this and the other contents, if you have the time, you will be able to reach your own conclusions.

So you can better understand my views, the first Watergate book on which I worked and laid aside only because telling the whole story became impossible in a single work for which there was no market is titled Watergate: Haccism's Floodgate. The one on which I had almost completed the draft in June, when I felt I had to take time from it and the other work on which I'm engaged, was and remains titled The Unimpeachment of Richard Nixon. Its central theme is a combination of how he remained unimpeached, which means how society's protections all failed for two years, together with what was never put together so representative society could function and what remained unexposed.

If there are going to be serious editorial problems with this book coming from the anger and other emotions I felt and the adverse conditions under which I wrote it, I look back on it after all the work of your committee and others and the more recent exposures with some satisfaction because there is no single factual statement in it that requires change nor any opinion that has been invalidated. Not even ^{those} ~~some~~ 6/23/72 transcripts of which I'd appreciate a xerox if you can spare it.

This new book is completed except for the cover. The money with which to print it was borrowed by a young friend and colleague because when my work has left me in debt at 61 I could sustain no more indebtedness. After it is printed I will seek some means of distribution. My past does not deceive me about the hazards. However, the first thing we will do is send a free copy to each of our 535 legislators. If even getting these copies delivered may present a cost we can't afford, we'll find some way. And I think that you can understand giving so large a percentage away free and without hope of any possible return is at least a measure of our sincerity and the costs we are willing to bear to make what contribution we may be able to make to a decent society and the ability of legislators to meet their obligations. This is another way of expressing the opinion I may not have made clear earlier, that ordinary citizens also have promises to keep and miles to go before they sleep.

I would be kidding you if I claimed that I require the copies of your committee's books for my own work. I don't. There is so much work I have researched and I want to try to write for reasons you have encapsulated so admirably I tell you frankly I would not even take time to look at them now unless there is an index that would permit the ~~same~~ ^{same} finding of what I might want to quote directly instead of what I have already written. My real desire for them is for completeness of what will become a university

archive. I have two requests. I do not conceive it as an archive on political assassinations or on The Watergate. Rather is it something like how government works and too often fails in time of great stress in which these subjects are an important and thoroughly documented part. And from this you can understand that I do not believe the resignation solves all our problems. So, if it is possible, I would appreciate a set of these books.

I presume your report has been printed and is available. I would like that and if you have a spare typescript of your separate comments I would appreciate that in addition because, if it meets with your approval, after I complete the draft and then read and edit this work I might want to include excerpts from it as an epilogue. Entirely independently you reached the conclusions with which I began and your views are the result of an examination and appraisal of that to which I have not had access. I would not use this in any way that would be trading on your name nor would I even suggest that it means you endorse anything I have written. I might just use your statement or excerpts from it as an appendix. But I do think it is exceptional that of all the officials involved in various ways in these investigations you are the one who has spelled out in plain language what the essence is and that it coincides with what I have been writing without our ever having met.

Only some of what I offered you has been used and none that I can recall in a proper context. Now that the official proceedings except for what may come in courts of law are over I have added reason for wanting this to remain confidential until I have a chance to see if I can complete this book and get it published. There is not the need I was willing to risk, for you to be able to use what I have done if you believed it necessary. So, if you are curious, my invitation still stands.

I never asked you and you now need not feel impelled to answer, but I am curious ^{about} who the "mutual friend" who directed you to me is.

Thanks you very much for your job so well done. We live, alas, in a day when this is not the rule.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg