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The Watergate Caper : Conjecture Weisberg 8/12/72

Now that at least \$114,000 of Republican money has been traced to the people publicly involved, really only Barker of them, I think we can do a little conjecturing.

First of all, this kind of money greatly exceeds the cost of a bugging operation in which it is not necessary to service bugs regularly and unless enormous transcription of tapes is planned, in itself an operation of such magnitude that so many typists alone would be involved that security would be impossible.

So, I can consider that the bugging is the visible part of the iceberg of the operation.

There are certain things about the people involved that make other projects not unreasonably. All are reactionaries, not conservatives, people of right-extreme views and have no doubt sincere beliefs.

If one name has surfaced that is without CIA connection, I don't recall it. Even Colson, the dirty-works man, has it through Hunt.

The current Time says the Hunt-Liddy operation included the checking of leaks to the press—calling it, in their words, plumbing. That also is not normal and these are not the kinds of experts used for that if one is rational in selection. They could have been used only on the political end of the plumbing.

All these Cubans are Miami Cubans. The country is crawling with them in other cities. But not one is not a Miamian.

There are a notch above mere revanchists. They were all in the military end and included leadership elements, their Washington contact being their former fuhrer. Even the little-head-of McCord seems to have been part of that operation, radio expert. So they all have politics, pasts and CIA connections in common. Meaning also a basis of mutual trust.

Let us not forget that McCord also protected Martha until she was "liberated".

Now with the Republican convention slated for Miami and all advance billing indicating it can't avoid being the dullest on record, and with all indications that Nixon enjoys less personal attachment from ordinary people than almost any President and with all the measurable indicators of what has happened to the country in his regime about the worst ever, and with an entire career built on nothing but the dirtiest of dirty works, and with closest associates and political thinkers from this level of purity and nobility, a commotion at the convention is one of the likelier operations to be conceived as a means of getting sympathy for him and at the same time getting some interest in Dullsville, Fla. On nationwide TV.

What the younger will likely forget is the use made of European anti-Communist refugees in the past, esp. Lithuanians, Estonians, etc. They caused the kinds of commotions that fit with the foregoing situation perfectly. They were also CIA people. In fact, there is a classic case (Heine) where the CIA was able to argue successfully in court that its domestic obligations extend even to the deliberate, conscious and admitting libelling of a leader of one of these groups they wanted to detach from leadership.

Nixon and Nixonians are essentially copiers, as I've discussed with some who will get this in the past, with no disagreements. This promises to be a Republican Chicago with a twist. If it is not certain, I think it is a not unreasonable conjecture at this point, on no more than the backgrounds of the people involved and the amount of money thus far connected with it. I don't have to suggest the number of patriotic, America-loving Cubans who can become part of a violent, anti-Nixon demonstration (many would pass for Chicanos with ease, many are black, and they have good white friends who can grow beards if they don't already have them).

The fact that all the Cubans involved in this have had military training (remember above the Bay of Pigs the subsequent Ft. Jackson involvements) indicates that they could have been the cadre planned for such an operation and their Watergate Presence could have been as common-labor help or as part of a lark, that operations not in any way requiring the number of men involved were it for bugging. The one exception of which I can think is as porters, to carry away at one time heavy files. HW Comments solicited.