

WG odds and ends HW 3/28/73

As seemed likely, Ian was interested in the story I proposed to him about tomorrow's Colson appearance at the Press Club. He is also interested in an advance story because of the time difference and the closing of the first edition. I phoned Jim this a.m. to be certain he took the Buckley's Show's tape to Ian, as I'd asked Jim several days ago. He said he'd do it today and he did. Only he took the wrong tape! Ian phoned me about 5 to report it. Jim took a dub he made and the key portion is incomprehensible. I gave him Jim's home phoned and suggested he ask Jim to bring the original tape. Jim has to leave for Nashville tomorrow. His plane leaves at 1 p.m., which is barely after breakfast for him. (He worked until 5 a.m. today. When I phoned at 100 I awakened him.)

I told Ian what I'll be taking him in the a.m. and he'll do a story before the luncheon. It will deal with Hunt's urging the assassination of Castro and the changes by Buckley is what Hunt said in the transcript, aside from deleting this and what it took to hide the deletion. I read both versions to him, that of the printed transcript and the transcript JDW made from the show as aired. He found it interesting. I also got out my cassette of the show as aired so there need be no question.

Ian's call and Jim's carelessness both caught me by surprise. I forgot to tell him that Buckley is godfather of three of Hunt's kids, that they've been friends for 21 years, etc., and that Buckley is Mrs. Hunt's executor. I found the clipping on the friendship but not the one saying he is executor.

This nice patriotic notion of assassination should bracket well with Hunt's appeal to Sirica for mercy. I am has the text because he has and saved that day's NYTimes.

Bud has shaved his beard for the occasion of his representation of McCord. He had a full one when I saw him 3/13. On CBS-TV evening news (the only one we saw because Lil was delayed), he is clean-shaven. He said the committee had ordered McCord to say nothing about his testimony. Bud has been getting a rough time on this, particularly from the Times. Jim today said Bud expects them to do a nasty story on his refusal to say anything (Thank Somebody!) Jim does not know how McCord came to Bud. He met McCord Saturday without knowing he was or would be a client, simply by having to go to the office to get something he needed for the Ray case. He thinks any of my conjectures could be what happened and suggests another, that Fletcher Prouty, who is a friend of both, could have recommended Bud. Jim feels no adversary courtroom appearances will be required. Bud apparently got into some kind of confrontation with Thompson, minority counsel (from Bud's home town, Nashville, apparently over leaking). If I know him, the pressure on him to talk, carried to an extreme by the Times but by all reporters, naturally, will get him to clam up with real determination.

Bud Smith got an odd one from Seymour Hersh. H says that there was a conspiracy to kill the Guatemalan president several years ago, over narcotics, that two of ~~the~~ the WG defendants were charged but the whole thing was covered up. Hersh not reporting that? I told Jim I didn't believe it for an additional reason: those Cubans would do anything from what to them is principle but nothing against their principles, and there is nothing to connect any with narcotics. Liddy, McCord or Hunt? Not likely. No others.

I fear there may be a gangup on McCord or less probably, he has been primed for something. Hunt was granted limited immunity. Not having seen the stories or the grant, I presume this means no immunity over what does not come from him, or not what lawyers call "transactional" immunity. As I predicted to Lil in the event he got a grant, the Cubans immediately said they'd do likewise. They'll all say the same thing, I suspect. I also fear that with all the emphasis on the political and the WH and Vreep involvement, McCord won't be asked the necessary technical questions, which could be evidence of the identities of other. Note again no FCC violations charges, and the case was automatic.

The impression grows that this is GL's glorious moment, that the whole thing is about to explode, that too many GOPs seem satisfied it was his deal. Radio report not in Post had Martha attempting a new liberation of John, saying that if anyone said anything about him she would name some names, too. The vehemence of the WH support of Dean plus the careful evasion built in suggests he and GL discussed deal before events. HW 3/28/73