

Today's Post has close to three pages on WG, mostly Sunday-^{feature} type stuff, blended with copout agonizing, one sample of which, the lead editorial, is copied. I've not copied Alan Barth's editorial article on investigations, headed Congress' Duty to Probe; Watergate: A Crisis of Authority for President Nixon (His Seventh Crisis, with a little of the scandals of the past); and William Greider's "Shades of Scandals Past", which has a little historical stuff, like Teapot Dome, Sherman Adams, Don Dawson (with whom "il worked), Estes, etc. The last two are the longest but have nothing new in them. If you would like to have for completeness, I've given heads for easy retrieval.

I direct special attention to the closing grafs of the Bernstein-Woodward piece on the hush money. So often a set of facts that is unchanged can in retrospect hold different meaning. "Colson, who had been friendly with Hunt for years..." There is no apparent special reason for this long friendship. It could have come about by accident or by common interest in the beliefs of the irrational right, but I think it more likely the by-product of a different kind of association. The Mullen agency is one. So is ~~me~~ spooking. Anyway, I think that Colson is not departed for no good reason, his friend has been victimized (and I suspect Hunt would not have gone for the stupid caper part of the big deal and is thereby an unhappier victim of it), and if Colson is a true Nixonian he may be wanting a little Haldeman or Ehrlichman blood, if not a thicker red. Let us watch him.

Not necessarily significant and if it is, not necessarily related, is the new harshness of the Wash Star-News. They seem to be going hot and heavy. Competition with the Post could account. However, I'm thinking of the beliefs of the ownership and management, and I suggest this could be part of the new Nixon pretense, he is in firm control, soul of probity and public decency that he is, and they are running interference for him. I judge this in part on the relatively heavy electronic-news attention what the Star is saying is getting. "like going after Honest John the Mitch.

Colson again: remember his evasiveness I noted after catching his Press Club speech? All he denied was advance knowledge of one aspect of the caught criminality. Or, he has more than recommending Hunt to live with. He could be about to pull a Nixon, and for the same reason and from devotion to the same tactics.

What we need now is for one of the lawyers to sue the Creeps for unpaid legal fees! What fun that and the depositions could be! HW 4/22/73