

Dear Jim,

4/7/74

Among the added things that have kept me busier and less responsive is some time on my suit for an executive-session transcript, 2502-73.

Fortunately, I think, this is before the same federal court that deals with WG and before the judge who just sat on the Chapin case, Gessell. I hope it is having some educational value for he and his clerk, if they pay any attention to the papers, including affidavits and interrogatories and answers, they have to be learning something about the federal attitude in such matters and the dishonesties that are omnipresent.

In a sense there is relevance in the subject matter of the transcript. It was a session on what the Commission had been told about Oswald as an informant. This parallels the claims of the Cubans in WG and most specifically of DeDiego in the clipping quoting Rothblatt that you just sent me.

In my haste in going over the Post yesterday, more than the usual haste because I expected two sets of students, I forgot to go over the story of Nixon in France. In radio reporting, probably early a.m., I heard a quote from him saying that he knew in Iceland that Pompidou was dying. If it is no trouble and you recall this quote, that is all I would like to have, this continuing self-presentation as the all-knowing, for the psychological file I have started.

However, it is possible that intelligence reports had told him the illness was terminal.

But in that case Nixon's disclosure is sufficient for my point: why the hell did he have to say it, particularly under the circumstances?

It is still before daylight and too early for today's paper. Early a.m. radio, as I recall Westinghouse news at 4 and 5 a.m. but not CBS, report new charges on both "enemies" and domestic intelligence by Weichar. If the Post does not carry, this, of course, interests me much.

This is not unrelated to your unanswered 3/28 on my 3/25 to Barry Sussman. By now you have the papers and know the allegations of Post-CIA connection, as you have my earlier memos.

What I did not specify or suggest to Barry is suppose the allegations are true?

Then was Woodward or were others feeding back to the CIA all the leads, connections and proofs I was providing? Did this enable the building of defenses against charges not made? Did it figure in the charges not being made? Many questions, serious ones, for there is a prima facie case and with regard to Bennett, clear and pressing interest.

I have delayed responding to your 3/28 note with the informative clips on the 25th Amendment hoping for time to go into them at length. This also is relevant to our earlier exchanges on "health."

You believe Nixon "never will stand for a Senate trial." I am not as certain, although I am without doubt that he will do what he can to avoid it.

In my letter to Joe Kraft in response to his answer to my earlier letter, I note how unusual it is that Nixon subjected himself to what he knew was inevitable, having to give up a half million dollars. And that he didn't tough this out. I intend this as an illumination. And I make a generality: that the extent of Nixon's criminal activity that he knows is criminal and in which at first he did not expect to get ~~swung~~ caught and then (esp. re obstructions of justice) had little choice limits his options despite the face he presents and compels certain decisions. In this connection, if Mansfield sticks to his statement that he will oppose the grant of immunity. Nixon has to look ahead to the day when he may in fact face criminal charges. He can't assume that as with his taxes to date and the materials I have sent relating to the 6/20 memory-holing he will continue to get away with it. If I read Ehrlichman's Nazi character correctly, he personally and symbolically represents a real hazard. If I have been wrong in believing in the past that really large conspiracies can't succeed, what has happened and not happen with WG tends to dispute this belief. Of course the nature of the conspiracies is not exactly comparable. But suppose that more conspirators act like Dean? It appears that Kalmbach is going that way. When those steel bars yawn some may break.

Best,