

Dear Jim,

8.6.74

Last evening's disclosures came as I was finishing starting and putting together one of the concluding and probably penultimate chapter of The Unimpeachment, having built to it throughout the book, his knowledge of not the WG break-in but all the crimes encompassed by the rubric. My impression is that because of the purposes of the work I'll continue as planned because it is necessary to show that none of this was ever secret, that all society's institutions failed.

The electronic reporting had to be skimpy on such material. I missed NBC's because of a phone call, caught CBS's.

It can't be complete. It is more than just a change in strategy. It is another coverup, limiting his admissions to the break-in and its financing. You know what I have of 3 days earlier and there can be no doubt he knew the a.m. of the 17th, by phone.

This in no way requires the pruning of either of the trunks of the tree to which I have been adding branches. I don't think he'll now add many nor that the other tapes as they become known will. Maybe leaves and twigs because one trunk is Hunt and this is that trunk, not laundering of the money.

There is one thing I'd forgotten as I wrote. I came across it some days ago in reviewing materials put aside for this chapter. It is in the 6/23 tapes. But it was never secret, only not reported. Imagine, on all three nets repeatedly and still secret: that the original idea of blaming CIA was Mitchell's. It is in Dean's original statement, much of which has been ignored and was at the time, when it was overshadowed by the sensation.

In going over the selections from his transcripts laid aside to use for this chapter I think I have a case even for the figure of Hunt's blackmail because the transcripts were so voluminous only the most apparent meaning was seen.

So, I ask you to please be sensitive to anything you may see on Hunt, with a second, on Colson, who was much more important in this than has been indicated. His game was as successful as it was obvious and as missed as it was obvious, too. I built in the writing to Colson for this reason. This was really his operation, save for Ellsberg. All its facets. And he never stopped working for Nixon, not even after his plea. Just ahead of what I'm in I have three Colson chapters, followed by an analysis of the Baker report. The only parts of these at all new are from the text of that report. Or, it was all obvious from the first only ignored.

He has thrown Mitchell, too, to the wolves. Haldeman's defense is gone. The potential of use of the 1/27 transcripts is greater if he fights it out rather than using this as a basis of negotiating, beginning with outrageous demands so he can compromise on what is acceptable to him. He'll fight to avoid jail while he seems to be fighting for money and will be demanding both. I think the possibilities of staying in by coup have been nil since he released his transcripts only partly for that reason, more because he has systematically wrecked the sources of military money. I hope I'm right because this is the only alternative to his going now, as I suspect he's known for some time. His disclosure of these tapes comes when he could focus attention as he wanted because he dared not defy the Supreme Court after the nature of the House debates and their end in which his defenders made out a lousy case. If he does not make a deal now the disclosures may well pile up, which is what makes me believe he'll opt for immunity while fighting for pension, etc. His chances seem good.

Had it not been for all the balls I'm trying to keep in the air and the too-frequent interruptions I'd have this draft completed and the editing started. Thanks to a great assist from Howard, who I've taught how to assemble for offset, even correct, the transcripts book is close to done except for indexing. When I finish this, for which I got up earlier, to ask you to be especially alert to Hunt-Colson Nixonia in your papers, I'll get on the final reading of the assembled appendix to the book for footnoting. The phone call referred to above is a belated one from Penthouse Press. They are willing to publish in the original underground form and Jim and I are to go there Sunday or Monday. I'll have this camera ready by then and told then I felt I had to do this before I do anything else because of the

possible uses in the FOI debates if not impeachment. They didn't bat an eye, gave tentative approval, asking only the inclusion of their imprint on the book as publisher, so if their terms and assurances are acceptable they have a deal upcoming.

My experiences with publishers has been such that I will not expect a deal until I have one.

If I have one I'll have more offers to them. Other work.

In the wake of this there should be a chance on JFK assassination undoing that we have not had in years. If they are seeking acceptability for something other than female pubic hair, one of the most conspicuous features of the one issue of the magazine I have seen, the prospects may be better.

We'll see.

Hope Je's healing is complete by now. Best,