

8/8/71

Dear Js,

I've read the Freep 7/30 on the China trip. I've not taken time to think all the possibilities through, but in reading this it occurred to me that even the underworld prefers neat little packages, all tied with ribbons. I think they're far off.

I don't think there is the slightest chance that the Chinese would invite Nixon and then insult him, as they hint. I don't think they require any special result, and that Nixon doesn't, either. He'll probably make it seem that increased trade, which can help both, is his special doing, so he'll have something. But the trip in itself is sufficient for both.

Looking for special Chinese objectives, even if they exist, is kindergarten analysis. There need be no special ones, there need be no world-shaking agreements. The meeting itself is enough for a first step. But so far as objectives are concerned, I'd suggest that hope for any kind of detente is sufficient for China, and that any kind of meeting is a step that way.

Who gives what is never an initial step in so major of change, nor can it be initially important. Only Americans think in terms of profit from everything, even the Freepers. If they don't see cash, no success.

And, the mere establishing of relations, whether or not formal, and I presume that unless Taiwan is an insurmountable barrier, they'll be formal, is a defusing of the US military in that part of the world. But what they may think they ought to do and do because of that may become a domestic concern. They can hardly invade China over that, and I think by how were they to try something like that the threat to our allies in that part of the world would be too great for them to tolerate.

Thinkers we don't have. Not in any part of the press.

Unless he commits some utterly improbable faux pas, even for him, I see no possibility of Nixon losing anything he hasn't already, the lunatic extreme of the lunatic rights. So, they'll vote for Wallace as probably most would anyway. Or there will be a split to the right and we'll have an Agnewistic Party. I think it likely an incumbent Republican can get that much vote from suburban conservative inherently racist and afear'd suburbanites.

Next a.m.: Lil called me to look at a BBC (by abd large good but rarely seen here)TV special, a series on HenryVIII, this one on Annæ Boleyn-to the swordsman. It seemed like a fine commentary on governments and justice. I think it will have been good for those who saw it as a dissertation on justice and the courts. I found it rather remarkable that with the production itself by the British government they would so indict everyone connected with government. Now to PM. Best,