

6/25/74

Dear Dick,

Later today I will pick up the xeroxing and mail you a copy with this. It is supposed to be packed for me so I can take it right to the post office and save 15 miles of driving and perhaps a day in reaching you. Unless the xeroxers mess it up, it will be ~~hard~~ broken down as Howard did it and we discussed ~~it~~ yesterday.

He wrote the enclosed memo while I was gone yesterday and discussed it with me this morning. I think it is possible to exaggerate the subtlety angle for more than two reasons. These two are that if more than half is too subtle what remains is much more than enough for the average reader and you professionals and intellectuals seriously underestimate the average reader, his interest in such matters, his comprehension of them and what has been most surprising of all to me in an enormous reaction to my writing (I'd say at least 2,000 people have written me!) is how many reread and if they come to something that is subtle, take the time to figure it out. To simplify, a large percentage of the potential market in the average citizen class has serious interest and I am confident that if for this average-citizen market there are subtleties, it makes no problem because there remains more than enough that requires no thought.

Separately Howard and I have been obtaining official copies of various Nixon statements, as I told you. I had all he had so he is going over mine now and marking up what he thinks is the material to juxtapose with the tape selections. From this you and Bill Martin can make the final selection. We'll do with this as with the transcripts, copy the excerpts and paste them up and send them to you. It will take a little longer than commercial xeroxing because my machine is so slow, but we'll do this on my machine. By the time I have obtained the other statements we want we will have this in the mail to you. Day of two only. But there will be more.

Howard should complete going over these today. Before I leave for Washington, from my file of newspaper clippings -and I have one on each official statement since the arrests -he will make a list of those we'll want and I'll try to get them from the GPO. If they are not suitable for facsimile use in that form I'll then seek others in the event the initial printing is not for mass-market. As things look now, by Monday we'll have the last of it in the mail to you.

If you do not know Mark Jaffe and want to make an approach to Bantam, I have a friend who is a department head there and can speak to him. If I speak to him before he is coming here for part of his vacation I'll mention it, without committing you to anything. They do plan other Watergate books as a result of the success of the transcripts. I don't know if their plans are fixed and complete.

On the other book, I'm plugging away as hard as I can and as fast as I can. My fear is not for its potential but over the probable need for editing. It is a very complicated thing, as Peter Shepherd said. In even the narrowed part on which I have fixed this is still true. I am trying to do it not as a thesis but as a detective story. It is largely new material, some of which, as I told you, was stolen. (Whether by a guest or a "sinister force" in Haig's marvelous phrase, I do not know.) I am right now at a resumption of the part that was in yesterday's and today's front-page headlines, Colson's hoked-up CIA stuff. The CIA is in this for real, but not Colson's way. Colson found his Christ in the White House. He is serving that graven image. I think this makes the book more interesting and if I can complete it fast enough, even more commercial without the commercial in mind.

I am working and rushing on still another "instant" book I have not discussed with you and can't now take the time for. I do not know what we will do with it but I do know that it has to be ready as fast as I can do it. It may appear to be a non-book but because of what I believe lies behind my being able to obtain (properly on my part) the amazing transcript that is the basis of it means it has to figure in the Nixon/Haldeman/Ehrlichman defense plans and may soon figure spectacularly in court. Whether it does or not is unrelated to its value and the certainty of some success with it, it is of that nature.

The young lawyer with whom I am working on this is trying to borrow \$5,000 for an underground edition of 5,000 so we can do it immediately, regardless of commercial considerations because it can figure immediately in Congressional debates on the amending of the "Freedom of Information" law. (His name is Jim Lesar and he is just starting his practise.) It is one helluva document, about 90 pages, on a variety of sensitive subjects, like nothing you have ever imagined on the CIA and the FBI and Hoover. Each of the pages we will reproduce in facsimile has a big TOP SECRET stamp on it still. I have other relevant documents with the same stamp and a large selection of relevant FBI and Secret Service reports to include in an appendix. I am certain that students alone will go for this more than enough to recover printing costs. But in this case we have to put citizen responsibilities ahead of commercial interests and we are not approaching any publisher. When we have it we will make some approaches for distribution. If you know anyone at Playboy Press, it can represent a particular asset for them. I have something to show immediately and in not more than a week will have more, much more.

How I wish I had connections with someone connected with foundations!

So, these two projects cut into the time I have for writing the draft of the Water-gate books.

I like the title I Am Not a Crook. But I also believe there is strong pull in the concept I had originally, and I strongly suggest that as a subtitle, The Sayings of Chairman Richard. This gives us the best of two worlds. If you have any concern about using the Presidential seal, of which I may or may not have a copy, we can use that of the United States just as well, and in my books I merely xeroxed it from the Warren Report. Also believe the cover should be red and there should be an appropriate comment in the introduction, which I think should be very short, few pages only, of explanation, sources, etc. Saying, if there is no initial mass market, that these are the original White House versions reproduced photographically can have a pull among what must now be a national phenomenon, transcript buffs.

Hastily,