

9/3/72 The Post has two page 1 Watergate stories today, one reporting the current legal situation and the other a roundup apparently done in advance (Three reporters on two long stories, Jim Mann on both.) With about a full page for the roundup what is selected out is pretty conspicuous: mention of the P.R. agency and its CIA connections and what can be a federal subsidy today, while its v.p. and dir Hunt, also CIA, is W.H. consultant; common CIA-Bay Pigs bonds of past of all arrested plus at least Hunt; common post-Bay Pigs military training (i.e., trained cadre) all Cubans; mention of Jack Anderson's use of purloined O'Brien files without mention of fact that one of arrested five was one of his informants- and is one of those who had pix stolen files made in Miami- just too much to remember or take time to try to remember, that much. Why devote a wholepage to trifles of the story, the past any reader would be hard put not to have in mind unless he'd just come from Mars. Among the theories not mentioned is plan to provoke demonstrations at Repub convention to promote sympathy for Nixon. Of course the papers tend toward the pop, the comprehensible and the neutral, but even with this, I find the percentage of pap in the roundup rather high and the content rather low for a paper with the pretensions of the Post and the kinds of editorials and editorial articles it has carried. When I was in DC Friday afternoon and was waiting, I phoned Woodward and asked if he'd care to ponder the possibility that this was one of the best examples of news management in his career (he is young) and one of the more professional of all time. He professed elaborate thanks for what I had been sending in general but was conspicuously without comment on the analysis sent before it was recorded (meaning I am sure leaked) fact that two of the principals had been near the crime at the time of the crime and the probability of Pentagon Paper involvement. I did not say or expect that Hunt and Liddy would have been in the building minutes before the bust, but I knew somebody had been there besides these five and knew there had to be unreported communication between the five and others and the analysis you have sets this forth. I have nobody leaking to me, so I suggest this means the reporters really are not thinking about their stories but rather are pumping sources for what they have gotten. HW