

Coup-notes 12/14/73 HW

Yesterday I was telling Lesar that the energy crisis is merely another possibility for military justification of a coup, that the military are the only real source of fuels that may be urgently needed before the winter is over, that they will resist having it taken from them and will find this national emergency they will see as justification, as they can with a number of other things. He told me that he had heard that the Navy had worked out an allocation plan long ago, that it saw the coming crisis when the civilians in government had not. He did not remember the name of the admiral in charge of the project, but his information had included that...Can it be that this planning was unknown to the civilian branches of the government or was not included in the normal input to the White House? Think not. I also believe it unlikely that any part of the military will not regard it as the most urgent need for all scarce items, of which fuel is only one. The way things are going, appropriations are another. The impact of the current situation on federal revenues will have to be great. Unemployment and reduced industrial production will decrease tax revenues. Some time ago I noted the use the USSR could and would make of the oil situation, which can be a more serious threat to the industrialized countries than any military operation. I am doing the grocery shopping and know that even where there is nothing to cause it there have been major increases in the prices charged for staples. Which is to say that simultaneously, conditions that can lead to popular support for a coup have been created and will exist at the time it is tried, if it is. "Banana Republic" may not be an apt phrase, for they are the one item that has not gone up. They have been down to 12¢ a lb locally for some weeks.