

Dear Hwoard, Glad you are watching the papers for military stories, esp. re possibility coup.

All the factors you note are possibilities and all the stories subject to the interpretation you give. However, I continue to regard my first revisionism relevant. I had originally felt- and I'm going back now to the pre-Ervin days, that Nixon would stage a coup to remain in power. From private sources I understand there was military consideration, meaning some thought of it, and division, meaning some opposed. Then, when the real deterioration of all of the national life became apparent and apparently irreversible without disaster, it seemed more likely that the military would use him as their excuse for a coup. I think it is important to understand that the military believe all we oppose in their thinking. They are dedicated, they do, devoutly, believe that their beliefs represent the country's need and that those not holding the same beliefs lack their full appreciation, etc. It is not necessary to conceive them as unprincipled plotters. It is probable they regard themselves as the true patriots and their concept of military needs as the most essential there are. As things continue to get worse, and they will, as Congress gets increasingly open in displaying its cowardice, which only the exceptional will change, and as there is more competition for the diminishing national revenue, there will be new considerations weighing high in the military mind, all tending to promote a coup in its concept of the most urgent national need. Ford is ideal for them for this, as he is for Nixon giving a no-choice choice. With these added considerations in mind, the newest leak, the Kissinger-JCS flap, remains unclear except for what I decided from the early a.m. newscasts, before seeing the paper, that it was much too well orchestrated to be just another of the endless, purposeful leaks. Hastily, HW 1/27/74