

Dear Jim, Before tackling the mail and paper and hopefully getting some time to work, this note to let you know I taped Haig and Cox yesterday and Buchanan and Guraay this a.m., both on CBS TV news. Lesar came briefly yesterday, with his wife, a young lawyer and a friend who heads Howard's math department. When one mentioned Cox, I blurted out that if Nixon had fored him upright he'd be on his knees still. They gave this an interpretation I did not intend and by their laughter seemed to indicate they found it apt. I intended a more restrictive meaning, but I remain convinced after hearing Cox undercutting everything that remains possible that my original estimate is accurate. Haig is a fine study in the determined, true-believing fascist mind as it is a study in how the press is utterly incapable of handling these types and how the media is without the ability to keep all from converting their appearances into propaganda favorable to Nixon and totalitarianism. They never lay hands on any except to the most sophisticated. It was particularly that way with Buchanan this a.m. He walked all over CBS in their studio and on their show. He actually interpreted GL's complaint to be accurate reporting, if this is not what GL said, and he associated himself with that complaint, yet these reporters—four! of them—never once said well, at last you and the White House have made it clear: you object to accurate reporting of the failures of, criticisms of, misdeed if not illegalities of the administration and its leadership. You are asking us to suppress the legitimate news you do not like and ask instead that we air what by normal, honest and traditional news standards is propaganda. One or two firm but polite things like this and they'll quit, not being able to tolerate it. But these people don't understand or fear. I'll hold onto these to hear if you have any interest. If they make a good record of what I've summarized, I'm at the point where I have to forget some. HW 10/29/73