

Lane and I did not come to blows on Take It From Here, WRC-TV this a.m. I punctured a few of his pet contrivances/falacies/quests for vengeance and on a couple of occasions upstaged him in his grosser errors and omissions but I did not lose control and did not tear into him personally. Opinion of the producer and several others, including strangers who happened to catch, is that the points were clear, came across. I do not expect any more reaction on a show angled at the housewife audience the last real shopping day before Thanksgiving (Turkeys still frozen tomorrow will not thaw in time.)

Lesar met us at the studio. He and I drove our cars downtown together. I left Lil off at the opticians and we parked our cars and saw Sussman, by prearrangement.

STM(E) on her own decided to see an old friend of ours, closer to her but a first-rate source for me on the writer. The friend, who without doubt is in a position to know, sent me further details, about the chartmaster who planned to be whoremaster.

At the time Ford was pushing the impeachment of Douglas, said chartmaster established offices where the writer later did, set up The New Republic Publishing Co. and did a book on this impeachment. It flopped.

The topicality, connections and ramifications of this are obvious. Jim was with me when I got the report. I felt that this I could not delay for a book that is not under contract and has no prospects of finding a contract. Neither Jim nor those immediately available in that suite could think of anyone who could use this and related info except as a gift and few who could be depended upon not to misuse even as a gift. So, knowing he could do nothing, I decided to consult with Sussman again to see if he could offer and advice on where I might be able to sell this information. He had no suggestions but he ~~didn't~~ give me something that fits with it, something I have not seen published. It seems that ~~the chartmaster~~ Ford had once recommended the chartmaster for a job.

I had little time left before having to return home so I called Sandy Smith at TIME, who had been supposed to come up and did not. He was not in. I talked to another reporter, David Beckwith, then walked over to see him. I gave him the essence of the story, told him it need not be a one-shot and that I had other data I consider vital that fits with it, said my career of giving things I had away had to end and offered this and if desired more. He asked the conditions and I said I was not prepared with numbers but would wait several days before shopping around so that it could be an exclusive for whomever I dealt with, and said my only other condition was that the literary rights remain mine because I am doing a book. Other than what might become public domain. He found this reasonable and I am to phone him Saturday morning.

STM(E) also had a message from one connected with a number of DIA people that they actually fear a coup, the word of the message.

Jim will do the obvious book-publishing checking as soon as he can, meaning, I hope, tomorrow.

What is also interesting is that the friend knew when the writer had a private line installed. STM(E) and probably friend did not know that there were two. The one of which neither knew, one that has not been reported, was in the offices in which the chartmaster was quartered during his literary period. They thus knew only of the one on which the billing was so unusual. I am surprised that the friend knew this and I shall have to visit this friend in person as soon as possible.

Bob Woodward came up to me at the Post. We shook hands, exchanged greetings, and I asked him when his book is to appear. He said shortly after the first of the year.

Barry thinks the full text of Nixon's AP ME's convention remarks appeared in the late Times editions of the next day. He expects the text with a kit that was promised. I'm sorry I did not keep a tape on the remarks because if the only version available is official, I would expect editing in several areas. When I saw him I had told him that GL's accounting of his net worth was approximately the profit he made on the sale of his residence of the time he pinpointed. I reminded him that among the other figures that thus had to be accounted for was the profit on the Beverley Hills lot. I gave him a synopsis of that deal, of which he appears to have had no knowledge. Not until later did I realize that this was later, but that also left open the question of the source of the money for buying that lot. HW 11/20/73