

Dear Jim, Later this a.m. I'll be taking Lil to work. If the NYTimes gets to town I'll get a copy. If it does not I'll let you know in the next mailing. If I'd thought it thru I'd have realized that it was best all around for Ford to do what I suppose you also believed inevitable as soon as possible to sustain minimum damage and before the honeymoon was over, which anyone with sense had to know would be soon. The staging was pretty crude but neither CBS nor NBC TV specials noted it. CBS reporters hardly disguised deep emotion. Not sure Rather did not depart script at end to make person statement... I'll be especially interested if you note any evidence of what I also presume, existence and dating of a deal, not impossibly when asked if he'd accept appointment as v.p. Potential may be much greater in terms of exculpating others... Original statement that Becker, Miller flew out, spent short time San C and returned, can't be true so I wonder about lie. Believe Becker in draft The Unimpeachment chapter "Dossier on the Anti-Douglas." Part of Ford's hidden dirty past... Found myself when Miller actually became Nixon's D.C. criminal counsel. Esp. with similarities to ungenerous offer to war protesters... Wonder how long strong disapproval will last and whether media will report each reason given opposite truth and reality. Except God. Must remember to count number of times He was invoked! On a staged Sunday caper. ... Bantam friend tells me book Ford letters out. (antiFord collection.) ... Haig can leave now, huh?... Bet no single paper checks morgue on Becker or prints if it does. Predict victim's silence, too (Wolfson)... One my early reactions was there'd be resignations, inc. terHorst for professional reasons (future if not principle). News b'casts beginning 4:30 a.m. report none. Disappointment. Expected in ex. branch, sp. prosecutor's office. People past shock, principle?... Anyway, Jaworski has done his biggest duty... Believe Gallup poll being misinterpreted. Favorables to Ford small under circumstances, not large. Initial sympathy plus expert p.r. should account for larger %... U.S. Steel D.C. v.p. Whyte, Bryce Harlow, in on Ford planning 3 months before resignation, accounting for expert job... Suggest checking text for hedging indicating coming new scandalous disclosures. Ford could not help emphasizing "presently." ... Wonder how many in jail will not write Ford? We'll never know! Best, HW 9/9/74