

Dear Ed,

10/13/73

Please excuse the haste of this response to your 10/9 and enclosures. I'm deep into two long and complicated chapters, working in newly-obtained materials, and I can't keep it all in mind and I'm holding up my wife (aka typist) because she has typed to the first insertion. I'm on a break, just did some mowing, and this before picking up.

Congressman Mills: I do believe he just killed himself out of ~~many~~ shame. I did not know him but I have many friends in those parts and they all have the same ancient concepts, especially of hospitality and honor, regardless of their political views (mostly intensely right and far-right). The "Eastern Shore" (of the Chesapeake) as it is known is renowned locally for these and other things - including the world's worst driving and probably one of the world's highest accident rates for cars in motion. They also all drink heavily, except those who adhere to the more far-out religions. They are often teetotalers.

What I am more inclined to suspect is that the money was en route elsewhere, without his participation. His district is so safely Republican he didn't need any money.

Hughes: while I've written myself past the point where these enclosures are relevant and they add nothing for me, I appreciate your watchful eye and hope you will keep it peeled because I never see some of what you do, including Newsday Service, because I expect more to develop (around Bebe especially), and I'll be interested whether or not I add copy based on it. Publicity has forced the Whitewashing Wyrvin committee to back-track on this.

DJ tapping made needlessly illegal: I had a general awareness of this from political, not criminal cases. I've watched Mitchell closely and can't decide whether he was just so much a "I don't give a shit, they can run the Department" guy or whether he did this kind of thing on purpose, to stretch what the pigs could get away with. In that line they are pigs. He did that often enough, and he could not lose by it. They all banked on a Nixon-packed Court. Burger is an old Nixon fink. Olden days, that is.

McCord: I didn't believe he used a CIA cover name. I don't believe he would have in any way risked involving the CIA. He loved it. It also wasn't necessary.

Mills again: I don't think he was in on the state loot. He had not been high enough earlier and it was unrelated to national politics. Purely state graft and traditional. Well known, since from the time I heard the USDA was looking into Agnew's successor, a Democrat, I started a file, expecting all except the end.

Your enclosed letter: I think you'll want the Dist. Co. Court of Appeals decision of yesterday on the Nixon tapes. It spells out the no-man-above-the-law reasoning from last night's TV news accounts. I don't have a copy. It is book thick. Maybe Senator can get for you, or Congressman? It may be costly through clerk court.

The name Bernie Gordon means nothing to me. I am surprised that he is "like Stevens' electronic expert. All the stories I've seen, including those you enclose, give Stevens personal credit for the technical skill. I knew about him and McCord's purchases from him, in part from you. A young lawyer who works with Fensterwald is due here in two days and I'll take this up with him. Fensterwald is also a friend of Gerstein's, so if there were anything to connect these two with anything more than the sales to McCord, it would be that much more useful. You give no link to them and Hunt/Phoenix/CREEP bugging, etc. I had not heard of Audiometrics Laboratories, either, but then I don't watch that field closely. If any link does develop or is suggested, I'll be able to forward it. And, of course, I'd be interested.

Scott's man in GSA and Agnew charges: Sampson has been involved in all sorts of dubious federal contracts to friends and friends of friends. Scott is deep in one at least, maybe two, in Philadelphia. Several of Agnew's cronies in Maryland in Baltimore dealings. But it is my belief and was from the first whisper that once anyone went into those files it would be impossible to miss Agnew and if he were a born saint, he'd not get out of Towson (Baltimore County, not city), with unscorched wings. I believe that alone is the way it started. However, I am not saying that someone working for Our Glorious Leader did not get the investigation of the Democrats going in the expectation that Spiro would be besmirched. Possible.

Thanks and best regards,