

Haldeman's 5/31/73

Haldeman's 5/31/73 testimony (McGuire Committee), Day 418 on GL's mind:

I think Nixon knew much more about what was going on and who was going on and about than has been indicated, that he enjoyed this spooking more than presidenting, and that these are part of his "national security" ploy. Even if he knew nothing about Hunt and his grab in advance, by the time June 23 came, he surely did. So, he siezed upon an out to which he could hold and a blackjack he could try to swing. I will be dealing with this more when I can, in re the \$\$\$\$.

Your June 1 note suggests reporters could have misunderstood. I think they more likely saw no connection. This, of course, could have helped them misunderstand. However, esp. given the time of Haldeman's comment, I think the reporters were probably accurate but bewildered. They all agree. I heard something to this effect on the radio several times.

If this had not been decided upon in advance, then I think your last graf is probably close, that Haldeman was signalling GL. But I'm inclined to favor the notion that all of this was carefully talked out and agreed upon in advance. What possible reason could GL have had for worrying about his pet hate, good old CIA? Only the chance of using it. Hunt's past provided that. By this time any friendship between Colson and Hunt was second secondary at best to the faithful grandma-trampler, and if nobody else knew, if nothing had been reported, Colson said what had to be said.

So, knowing all we do about Hunt and probably much more and some of his earlier adventures in Central America, GL and gang figured the inherent threat of exposure would line Helms and CIA up.

In fixing on Bqy Pigs, which was pretty thoroughly reported, Haldeman was also signalling CIA about Guatemala and I'm reasonably confident at least Dominican Republic. Others also probable.

I tend toward simpler explanations when they can fit. GL as blackmailer seems to me to fit. Knowing all seems probable. And, what alternatives did he have without spilling what he was finally forced to about his own Gestapo? It was 10 months before he did. If he had felt his gestapo was really working on nat. security, he'd have said that at the outset and had a good chance of getting away with much that has since come out and might not have. Or, he was scared from the first, which means he's guilty in his own mind, and of more than obstructing justice.