

22 July 1973

Dear Harold:

Herewith the page from Scanlon's, which I believe I copied from a handout which came to the office at the time. This is a second copy made here, of course.

I've read the galleys of Hunt's book and in general agree with your own conclusions, no important difference, anyway. In the meantime on Saturday 21 July the Chron carried an item from the WX Post svc saying Hunt had suffered an apparent stroke, believed to have stemmed from the jail fight he had and which our files indicate occurred on or about June 10. His partial paralysis or numbness in one leg could have been caused by slipping a disc during the fight, but on the other hand who knows what sort of surreptitious injections are possible these days? My own thought is that if the committee wants to get his testimony on the public record they had better get it while he's still alive. He's much too young for a stroke. If you thought it was urgent to get Haldeman and Erlichman on the stand before Mitchell, I'd suggest this is far more urgent. No doubt the same or similar thoughts have occurred to you.

The names in Hunt's book don't mean much to me, as I've never tried to study the BofP. Many seem familiar, such as Ray and Miro Cardona and Artime. I certainly agree with you that these particular proofs were marked up by no one but a newsman, and that the markings coincide faithfully with what Scuz used in his sobby. Agree Scuz was doing a job for someone. As for whom, prime candidate is the CIA, but I think it also could be WH. For some time I've had a theory that while there obviously was a feud between CIA and WH, and identical campaigns to make the other the scapegoat, there necessarily had to be an area or areas beyond which neither campaign could stray. That is, despite deadly feuding, there had to be common interests, such as in keeping Hunt silent. Maybe this leakage is an example, for while it obviously is more beneficial to CIA, it does little damage to the WH or GL at this particular time. It does, of course, suggest to those who had not thought about it before that Hunt could have known GL from the time of the preparations for the Bof P on, but to those who had thought about it this comes only as a reminder of the possibility.

Also agree someone is working on Hunt's ego. Leaking the Galleys not only hurts the chances for his book when it's published, as you point out, but taken with the Scuz article holds Hunt up to a certain amount of ridicule. At this particular time and in his circumstances, it could be most effective to such a personality. If he's actually had a stroke, that would be an excellent sign that it's working. If it's not a stroke, Hunt certainly should be first to realize what's possible, and the story told by the lawyer that it is thought to have stemmed from the fight may be simply ~~q~~ protective coloration. In any case, Hunt's state of mind must be assumed to be considerably worse than before the galleys were leaked. Like you, we find it difficult to think it was by the publisher.

The book itself is interesting if only because its choppiness indicates strongly that extensive cutting has been done. I do believe, however, that most of it was ~~w~~ written in 1967 or whenever it was supposed to have been written. The other interesting thing about it that struck me was the rather clear implication -- even without the aid of the Scuz analysis -- that Hunt, because of his extremist views, already in 1959 and 1960 had been shelved to what amounted to a job as babysitter for the quarreling exile Cuban leaders. There is very little

to show that he had much to do with the actual~~x~~ planning of the operation, which he complains bitterly had been turned over to the military. His job seems to have been to keep the Cuban wheels reasonably happy and capable of cooperating. He was simpatico, particularly to the right wingers, and himself describes how difficult it was for him to accept a socialist like Manolo Ray. He appears to have had the same difficulty with Bender (Jake Drecher) whom he criticizes as having come a European Socialist background and whom he depicts as an opportunist without principle.

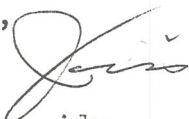
I had to read this hurriedly and in snatches, so hesitate to try any further speculation. I hope to get the gleys re-wrapped and off to Lesar in the same mail with this tomorrow. Many thanks.

Also tomorrow, I shall try to get to an East Bay phone book (mine is out of date) and begin trying to reach Scott for you. I still have a carbon of the letter you wrote him and gave to Lesar, and if I get in touch with him will forward it to him.

The enclosed dupes from today's Examiner (Sunday, 22) reinforce the theory we've been building during the past week or so that GL has embarked on a campaign of toughing it out, delaying and frustrating Ervin at every step and banking on the reluctance of the Demos to impeach him. The GOPs can't do it alone, and in any case their motive is to unhitch from him, not to ruin the country and themselves in the process. In the meantime Clayton Fritchey wrote a good column perhaps a week ago in which he pointed out that by agreeing with the ~~xxx~~ August 15 compromise on bombing Cambodia, Nixon had arranged things for the blame to fall on Congress if Cambodia falls to the Communists, as it eventually must, bombs or no bombs. If he can pull this off, the loss of Cambodia can be exploited fully and perhaps take some of the edge off Watergate. With domestic prices rising rapidly due to Phase IV, Watergate is due to fade somewhat anyway after Haldeman and Ehrlichman and Colson testify.

But after toughing it out, What? It isn't yet clear whether Nixon thinks he can resume his transition to authoritarianism with his present crowd even if he manages to discredit Congress and obscure Watergate with domestic and foreign disasters. This had to be a coup by stealth, because the means to do it by force were lacking. As far as we can see, they still are. Can he get his campaign of stealth back on the rails well enough to carry it off by 1976, at which time these appears to have been every indication that he simply intended to proclaim a new form of government? Meanwhile, we have learned one thing: In times of stress, he always can repair to his bed of pain.

Best,



jdw