

Ed, prior to the gov't's taking Crazy Sherman's invitation to make itself look good, Ron Kessler of the WxPost phoned to ask my opinion of his charges and him. I gave both, honestly. Former boils down to questions remain, but I've no remaining substantial reason to believe sabotage, consider parachuting after administering cyanide (apparently to one of two pilots) impossible, and if one says Mitchell is a crook, so what else is new? I indicated to him areas of my doubt, told him of Reuther-altimeter defective crash, etc. He indicated that he might be going to Chicago and asked who knows Skolnick? I gave him your name, address, told him you were an authentic expert in civic crookedness but Sherman has been capitalizing on his one success, helping get rid of a couple of crooked judges. I don't know if Friday's announcement of an investigation of Sk's charges will change Kessler's, Post's plans. It is improbable that there is anything to what Sherman says but less unlikely that there is nothing to investigate, so we don't know the outcome. My hunch is that this gives the feds a chance to say look, we went into all of this thoroughly and there just is nothing to it. Nixon sorely needs a chance to do a real investigation and then to boast of it. Sherman may have given him that chance. Once we has pulled this, he and his will be propagandizing the generality, all areas. And with Skolnick's thievery and then loudness in the JFK case, there is danger to all doing serious work there. These self-seekers, even if dedicated and even if crazy and thus irresponsible, are our worst enemies in any kind of serious work. But there is nothing one can do. HW 5/7/73