

28 Sept. 1973

Dear Harold:

Enclosed are some thing which have accumulated, none of which needs any explanation except one.

This is the Baker-Hunt retracing of Hunt's career, which I went to the trouble of transcribing because of the careful way Hunt's blackout between 1961 to 1967 is carefully preserved. It's almost as if Baker was telling someone, see, we've lived up to our agreement.

As I'm sure you did, we also were chewing nails that no one asked Hunt if he knew Nixon during the BofP planning, how well, and what if anything he had to do with him thereafter. Just one of the many areas totally neglected with the most important and promising witness the committee has had. Where, for instance, was he on 22nov63 ?

One thing Baker did remind us of is the fact that following the BofP Hunt became a special assistant to old Fuddy Dulles -- for how long, of course, we naturally are not told. I'm grateful for this, at least, because it it could have led naturally to the role I've long suspected Hunt played for several years. Certainly someone was keeping very careful track of the critics, what they were writing, and moved heaven and earth in various ways, some not so subtle, to control the situation. Enormous amounts of money must have been spent sponsoring phony books. More was spent sabotaging the efforts of authors whose work attracted the opposite of sponsorship. Someone had to run this program. If Hunt didn't, he is a prime candidate to ^{be} one of its top operatives. In many ways, it was well done, with very few traces left lying around. I feel you do not like to comment in this area for obvious reasons, but am persuaded you may be interested in knowing how we still feel on the subject. The reminder about Hunt's connection with Dulles, as a matter of fact, also contributes a possible motive for Hunt's hostility to everything connected with JFK, as if he needed any more than his natural endowment along those lines. Perhaps, the CIA propaganda against Hunt via Szulc and others is beginning to get in its licks: I'm now inclined to speculate that for all his special interests and skills, he was, after Dulles ~~was~~ was fired, anyway, regarded on the whole as a liability by the CIA, and that after Dulles departed, Hunt's activities -- if they are what I think they were -- must have had some extremely powerful sponsorship to keep him in the action picture. I suppose that one of the main problems is figuring out who provided such sponsorship.

The STM has found, in a couple ~~of~~ of clips on the milk price conference, an apparent discrepancy and/or contradiction as to when the WH tape recording equipment was reactivated. [That's assuming it ever ~~was~~ was really "dismantled," to use GL's language.] It could amount to no more than someone's intention to correct the record, but there has to be a reason, even for that. Over and above that, we have the feeling this may be some rather important maneuver to set a precedent of some kind. See, we can be reasonable about tapes; it's only when national security is involved that we hang on to them. In any case, this could be a maneuver of some kind in the Butterfield manner, comparable with his disclosure of the taping system itself, and we thought you'd like to be alerted.

Best from us both,


jdw