

22 April 1973

Dear Harold:

I find nothing specific in your 10-12 that needs replying to, but do want to get some of the enclosed on its way to you. We have been so busy trying to keep abreast of the flood of developments from shuimen that we've scarcely had time to do anything else. Even on this weekend of Eastern, ~~when~~ absolutely nothing usually happens, the situation changes from one hour to the next.

In general we have been vastly impressed with the way you have been calling the shots, with some of your predictions not yet having come to pass by the time your letters get here two days after you mail them!!

Our dominant impression is that the situation has reached that delectable stage, inevitable when thieves fall out with each other, where no one trusts absolutely anyone else and believes himself to be operating quite alone. Thus, not only does Dean disavow any willingness to be a scapegoat, but now Colson appears willing to finger his former colleagues in the White House whom you heard him described as a passel of honest, hard-working people. [Hard-working at what ?]

While McCord's hearsay material undoubtedly stirred up some of the animals, it actually added not too much to what Gray already had exposed, and we have the feeling that what really pulled the cork was Magruder's boyish blabbing. (He was met on the street afterward by a reporter, to whom he refused to talk) but who was able to report that his lips were trembling [after the manner of any young thief caught in the act].

We got a very strong impression here, from all the reports, the photographs and the general haste of the occasion, that Magruder was what forced Nixon to call his brief press conference and vow to get to the bottom of everything. We felt he acted as though this had been forced upon him, but sooner and more uncontrollably than he would have liked, and that it was a desperate move to soften the impact of Magruder when what Magruder had said would become known in the next day or so.

This may or may not bear on a perhaps far-out theory I've had for some time, that there has been a deal between Nixon and Hunt-CIA to protect each other in certain essential respects. Now even that may be jeopardized, as the NY Times is supposed to be saying tonight that Liddy is resisting administration pressure on him to testify before the grand jury. To what purpose, if not to say who really was running the operation ?

That is not to suggest that I am at all sure who was. But we still find two very carefully shrouded mysteries in this whole affair, and these are the precise roles of Dorothy Hunt and Donald Segretti. If, as you say, Dotty was sitting next to that TV gal when the plane went down, the coincidence, given the circumstances, is startling. Was she on her way to do a show ? And as for Segretti, his function as a crazybone in this whole mad scene is suggested by the fact that he was paid by Herbert Kalmbach, the GL's personal attorney, rather than by any of the other moneybags, those of CREEP included. Why ? Why no inkling of what Segretti told the grand jury when everything else has been leaked ?

Oh well, I suppose that if we leave the surviving scorpions in the bag together long enough we'll eventually find some light on some of these questions.

Your Lamarre discussion tapes arrived okey, but we haven't yet had time to listen to them. No time for ~~anything~~ anything but you know what.