

AUG 24 1973

Dear Jim,

8/23/73

Your letter of 8/20 could not be better timed! That quote from Eleanor will fit perfectly into what I wrote long ago and started reading this morning, only to have to lay it aside because of a number of interruptions.

In it you repeat much of my own thinking and snatches I've written, but you draw succinct and helpful conclusion I had not, so for them also I am grateful.

I'm going at such a pace, trying to do too much, I'm more than usually forgetful. If I had not written to forget my analysis of the indictment, I should have. In rearranging some of the sequence of chapters, I put it up front and did a new one that I'll have already retyped. (I'm three chapters ahead of her in writing, but I've two to read, which often takes more time than writing.) So, I'm returning the memos you sent. I know I did a lengthy one. What I did with it, if I didn't send you a copy, is something now worth forgetting.

Howard left for a vacation yesterday. Today I got a couple of clips from the Times 8/21, the last until he returns. I have a stack to go over, from him.

We see the N.O. "plot" the same way and for the same reasons. One of the interruptions was a long conversation with the Nat Enquirer, the only publication likely to go for it. Uncertain. Clarence Doucet had a story on this I've not seen Sunday 8/15. They will ask him about it, will also get me the Sturgis/Buchannon indictment (yesterday's Post) and will be in touch. I've shown them six direct parallels with JFK investigation/assassination. If Gaudet is the son of William George, this is really far out! The quote attributed to Gaudet (from the LHO drugstore) is a steal from Ruby, almost word-for-word.

What you say about Agnew has also been on my mind. I think I made a note on this. He is a kind of GL insurance. The one possibility GL omitted on leaks yesterday is that they came from him.

Je's chronology on Betterfield is beautiful. I changed my belief after you first suggested this. My mistakes are always in believing these people not a thoroughly evil as they are. Some time ago I tried to find my copy of the Jencks decision and can't. I presume it is one of the things O & D did not return re proofs Frame-Up.

Editing tapes: what you say was redundant on local and net TV. However, there is a way of escaping the background-noise problem: superimpose a new and constant noise, like music.

If GL didn't resign at the outset, there is no chance at all. I think that if he had met real opposition then, he might have because he might have been forced into it, esp. with Spiro unscathed. Now is he scathed! So, what if he made a liar of his daughter? He has two, hasn't he? And isn't everyone (else) expendable?

On his speech: I have been setting up separate files on each and each statement by of for him. I think the one I'll use is yesterday's. If you don't need both the Post's and the Times' verbatim, would you please mail it? It is much superior to Checkers. It will save me a complicated copying job from the Post, which is over three pages and backs. It was really a virtuoso performance because he had already loaded his pants and because he got away with it. They never laid a hand on him. And all the editors see the emperor fully clothed. I plan what will take some work, bracketing each thing another said with what he said, which will show that either he is a liar or everyone else in the world is. That is not new. The context is. That will have to be toward the end, so no rush.

Where on page 2 you talk of the soil from which opposition must grow, that is what I'm trying to fertilize. I'm really writing the bill of indictment that won't otherwise be. Which makes a real problem in risking slowing down the pace of the book.

Toning down ~~xxxx~~ 8/15 speech: Tv news carried what I've not seen in papers, that the accompanying statement was originally about 16 pages, quartered after drawing.

Hope you saw the press conference yesterday. I saw and heard, separately. Seeing was important, as was that Ziegler push, for which he turned around in genuine anger and walked back for the laying on of both hands. If you had seen Haldeman's face the one time he allowed himself to emote, you'd know that you really understated. These are the most dangerously sick of men. (For which women can be thankful for male chausonist piggery, which saves them.)

As of the first few minutes, I think Rogers eased himself out. He didn't have to have his first press conference in eons and didn't have to say what crooks GL has. He did it after resigning, and he is an old Nixonian. From GL's ~~point~~ position, he is better off with Superkraut Dec State, and I don't think the "executive privilege" thing the commentators like Kalb siezed upon will be significant. There are no more secret missions for him, GL gets kike support and Rogers was no real asset. He can't possibly have any domestic successes, so he'll have to concentrate on foreign relations, where it now is not as easy as it was. He'll need a cast-iron gut there.

Je's prescient 8/19: if I didn't send you a carbon, I asked Sussman for a copy of those Ehr notes. We see it identically, and thanks to Je for the systematizing. I'm sending Time's recap on Hunt's blabbing. Please note if you haven't read my letter that the Post's version was incomplete.

The Cubans' complaints about unequal punishment, thanks. Nothing in machistic Post. The name of their lawyer now is familiar, but fuzzy in recollection. They have a legit ~~point~~, one of the things I had in mind in writing Fiorini. Cesar is to hand-deliver returned letter to Anderson for forwarding. He is getting to see Anderson's assassination file. (Have you noticed Whitten's by-line?)

After a battle with the poison in the woods, armed with a rotary mower: gave me a little time to think. Superkraut smart move. the Fulbrights will go for it, GL will appear conciliatory, some will take it as contrition and we'll be seeing more of both, esp. if GL, strengthened by fresh blood, decided that the best way to leave WG to the courts says he has said all that can properly be said outside the court, etc.

Had a long phone call from Richard Rye, who is and has been in Frisco, out of the blue. Says he is investigator for the Liberty Lobby. He is the gut through whom the Mafia contract on Garrison story was fed to me via Harv Morgan. He says he thinks Christian is CIA. I don't know his source, but he says he has heard that Hunt and ~~McKer~~ ^{Liddy} were both in N.O. 5 or 6/63. Somebody is looking past the Glass House. He must have some kind of subsidy for a daytime call or more than 30 minutes.

Natch the GOPs indicted the Dems before Agnew. This whole business, in all its aspects, is designed to destroy any kind of society, any kind of faith in government, to make real GL's argument that everybody does it. Or, why trust anybody? First, before this, the crooked GOPs in the Bloat Agnew dinner falsifications are not indicted, merely name co-conspirators and nobody can go to jail in that deal. Then they dump 30 counts on this guy and his, which will make ~~Agnew~~ Agnew look a little better when he gets it.

Got enough time to get started on the clips before supper and the evening news. ~~Thank~~ Thanks for them. Hope you are getting caught up before the flood. I am reading practically nothing and can't get time to clean up the clips HR sent. I'm enclosing a list of the last two batches. I went over them enough to get the dates. You are right on not needing any except the important ones. I now don't need details except significant ones. By the way, Larry Stern's surgical review of Hunt's masterpiece in today's WxPost strongly suggests Leigh James and his notion, I think.