

Dear Jim,

3/30/73

Of the clips with your 3/26 I've read that from the LATimes sZervice only, the one that concludes with reference to Bud as what I think is most likely accurate, substitute counsel. This was one of my suppositions, you may recall. It is also possible that Lipset arranged it through Turner's intercession. They are friends. I met Lipset when x Turner was with him and a friend-client of Lipset wanted to tape me for a radio show.

The STMs East and West are on the same Budlength, but I don't really think that was responsible for his sudden friendliness. He is not a dope. He just isn't bright in some ways, as he is quite bright in others. He also has a big ambition. He should have learned by now that in the field of his ambition his successes are due to others, never to himself. That followed upon the court of appeals decision I had accurately forecast, in my suit,

in which I'd done all the preparatory work and Jim the appeals brief. To put it another way, he was feeding that hand that hasn't bitten him. He changes from time to time, as does Bob Smith, his "research director". Bob is now anxious to go over my Farewell America files. He is coming for this purpose at too late an hour tomorrow afternoon. That is the way the unfettered scientific mind works. But when I urged this on Bob at the time he did his meager piece for Computers against Tomero, he didn't see it. Matter of fact, I suspect his coming this time is resentment over the slur on all researchers in the ~~knockle~~ ~~knockle~~ dinkle in Esquire.

X I think what we'd better do when he gets here, if we can do it without disturbing ~~il~~, is for me to talk about my limited investigation, the sources from whom I sought information, and my one meeting with Lamarre. He and I can both tape it. If it interests you, I can send. It will, if we do this, contain a simplified reason for immediately knowing that Farewell was a fake.

He, of course, feels otherwise, but I know of nothing of meaning or value Bob is doing, so he might as well be spending some time on this rather strange timing on this excessively dishonest writing.

For a long time one of the serious liabilities with the WG affair is that it has been called that and nothing more. One consequence is that all the more serious subversion is lots sight off. Another is that the semantics experts have a builtin copout. All the denials, and lately I've read them with care, boil down to the bugging. I am sure the worst is not yet public. But even the Segretti part is excluded from the denials.

The singing needs orchestration. It may be disharmonious. It is not easy to read without ehs heet music.

I'm beginning to getk the feeling that it is not impossible that McCord has been the source of some of the leaks. Not the last, from the Ervin committee (candidate, Weicher). All this talk of Liddy as the top honcho is deception. He may have been the moneybags, but not the operational chief. I favor a Bay Figs duplication: Hunt operational field chief under an operational WH chief. But, especially if Hunt was truthful in saying he was opposed to the silly crime, that could be Liddy. In this sense he could have been the boss because again, what is being talked about is not the all-encompassing subversion but this simple childish caper. He could have conceived and run that.

It is impossible that he doesn't know more, however. He may be right in playing tightmouth because the one think that can do him anygood is clemency. That means from the judge or GL. His silence helps GL. Meanwhile, he can still be used by DJ togloss over what has been hidden and if this is done, his silence and refusal to talk will make it appear that he is finally telling all. Can be used that way, anyway. This also helps GL. Singers often get rewards, so a shorter sentence would not attract that much attention after a decent interval.

Radion just reported he had been given immunity over objections his own lawyer. If he is not playing hard-to-get man-of-principle, this makes little sense, because it is best for him to do what can get him an easier penalty.

As of now there is no reason not to believe that McCord isn't being truthful and as fully so as he can be. I have a slightly uneasy feeling about it but nothing to support it. These guys had to have gotten promises. Sirica has made keeping them impossible unless he elects to do it - or changes. If they have no word from GL that he'll help them-and soon-

they are the Spooks Put Out in the Cold. Except the irrational, spooks under these ~~circumstances~~ circumstances, look for the warmth.

There is a mutual responsibility in spooking. The spook owes his boss, but the boss also owes the spook. McCord held fast through the court part and has no keeping of the word in prospect. This would seem to relieve him of the moral obligation of the honorable spook. On this simple basis I can dig and dredge.

But until we know the melody, we don't know if it is a beautiful aria or cacaphony. It is still possible for these guys to pin bum raps and to pin wrong raps and to go easy on some, exculpate others, etc. Especially if there is a perjury that can't be resolved.

Hunt seems to me to be playing his cards better. Maybe that is Bittman, maybe I'm wrong. He has been forced to sing and he seems to be singing. He is doing it in a forum where he has no choice. And one in which GL controls. He is asked only what the government wants him asked.

At this point, noon having come with with it no word from NBC, I phoned Finley, who is off, spoke to a wire-desk editor, and they are interested in the man whose qualifications as a trusted White House employee is recommending the assassination by us of the head of a foreign state.

I'll be surprized if the other Cubans do not take their lead from Barker and if he does not take his from Hunt. This political maniacs have what for them is principle and they are blindly authoritarian in their m.o.

You ask "schism?" Yes. The question is are those of higher station as dedicated and the gusanos. Will Mitchell take a fall for GL? I think not. And I don't think Mouthy Martha would be silent if he did or was forced into it. She has already declared herself and we don't know that it was not John liberating John with Martha's mouth. Do you visualize the Magruders, Chapins, Segrettis and others taking a rap with any kind of real penalty? I don't. GL's problem is to keep them silent or to make it possible for them to survive whatever might happen to them. I'm not as certain that he objects to the truth coming out because all of this has the cumulative effect of making the public more apathetic to the evils of government and less likely to resist more overt authoritarian steps.

In this sense, this kind of criminality can't fail.

I stayed away from Bud yesterday but left a message for him that is the others make any trouble for his client, perhaps I can help him with those others. He was around. I could have gotten to him. He wasn't answering the phone. There is the possibility of Liddy vs others conflict, disagreement between Hunt and McCord (read Hunt's appeal to Sirica and compare with his ambition to knock Castro off and you'll see more of the kind of dedicated, dangerous, believing nut he is that you could gather from the Buckley Show), and between McCord and the prosecution. It is not yet clear enough. What is helpful is the growing number of disenchanting GOP regulars who are sounding off. I think some time ago I noted the conflict between the regular GOPs and the Creeps, with GL cutting the GOPs off. Except where they have been unwise in professed belief in GL and company, the pros are in the clear on this and will have no reluctance in aiming for GL's throat.

Stuff for copying is backing up. I have to do my Dean file for Mollenhoff, who just may take up my requests for the Mullen government contracts. He is interested. I saw him after the Press Club appearance. But he is also busy, his new advocacy burdening his reporting and column chores. Big bactn from Larry today. I may impose on you by sending some and asking return. Skolnick has disappeared, too, after saying if he did it would be over what he has on Mitchell. I think it more likely that feds got a bellyfull than foul play unless someone from the past saw this foolishness as a chance to get even and frame others at the same time.

Hastily,