

NOV 2 1973

Dear Jim,

11/1/73

Your Mandate of Heaven delight/worry is another remarkable mail-crossing of the identical observations. This, I think, indicates that the attitude/reaction also is identical throughout the land. There is no local TV talk show and no local radio one, but I can get out-of-town radio shows, and I believe I referred to the reactions they reflect, with the bitterest being GOPs.

You do not exaggerate the significance of the Knight story. However, I think they and all others underestimate the danger of the situation and the treed cat. The truth, that these tapes have to have been memory-holed, is certain to out. The Post this a.m. understood what I said about Haldeman's going out of his way on this particular tape that, if as Sean said, would be certain proof of obstructing justice. They will check his testimony on it. We will, I am certain, find that this is one of those extras he had and didn't identify. He'll take it for GL anyway. I went into the operations of tape machines with the metro editor I spoke to in Sussman's absence and he began to get the pitch: Sunday night, 9 p.m., 7" reel, 1/2 mil tape, aut-reversing machine = about 12 uninterrupted hours. And those who certainly interrupted with it being Sunday and with sound-activation. Says they'll check out. They didn't even check Dean's statement, so I told them that during this interval GL spoke to Petersen by phone, that phone was wired, so why don't they ask if it, too, just had a timing [sic] device that also "malfunctioned"? I do hope Zumwalt (I wonder if?) gets a hard time today. He has to be in on much, all bad.

Lesar knows someone who thinks he saw ~~Jaworski's~~ ^{Jaworski's} name on Chotiner's 1700 Penna. Ave door a year ago. I've told him what I know so he can tell others for their Hill friends. Decided to call Finley and did. He is interested and they have men working on Ford with expressed interest in Ford's putting his ghost's feet in the public tell on his book.

Getting back to Knight story I think they underestimate GL's fierce determination and what I'm convinced is an authentic paranoia, not just a phrase. Plus a compulsive need to prove himself to himself and the world.

When we get to Der Tag, do you think the stomachs of the military will turn? I wonder. I also wonder where the opposition will come from and how, who will mobilize and lead? Especially if it is to maintain public stability. As I've already suggested, they may decide that the national interest requires getting rid of him. With no v.p. there is no line of succession other than Albert. This would mean overturning an election, unheard of. So, with martial law, they could have any long-lasting temporary arrangement they want. They might even opt Haig.

At this point Lesar called and I had to write and date a memo because one of my hunches on the crookedness of the judge paid off. Copy enclosed. I had hardly finished that when, having had calls back from neither CBS nor NBC friends, I thought of Jim Eason. Could not get through. He is on air and diligent producer would not take message. Then, when I finally got a woman they call a director and left a message, George Herman called. He is not on story but was interested and will report what I told him. If Eason gets message and calls back, it should be in a couple of minutes on the hourly (6 here) news break. So, I can't do as you once asked, phoned. If he airs it will be like snap.

The story on Jaworski is a helluva story. Besides the complications in his life he couldn't find fleas in a never-cleaned doghouse, witness the Texas report, 22 pages of 12-point type, the fullest page 27 lines, 3 1/4+ wide!

They didn't even investigate the report of Oswald's federal espionage connections (letter to me from Waggoner Carr/ 1/1/69). They -guess what? Turned it over to the feds, to investigate themselves.

Somebody is working hard for Nixon!

By 7 p.m. here I've had two calls, neither from Jim.

He did not call back at all. I find this a big change from the Jim Eason of the past. And it is consistent with what I've observed in the press. There is no real seeking for the new. Sometimes there is for what some official will say. It was ~~xx~~ a year after I told the Post about the Rebozo stuff that Newsday and Messick printed ~~before~~ before they did anything. Or, before I get to other work - it is early a.m. - this suggestion: you and I have separately seen the same thing in the people. We owe it to Nixon, not the press. Best, HW

HW