

The Great Blessing of a free press HW 11/10/73

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When Ford was nominated I backgrounded all of whom I could think on his WC work, the phoney investigation of himself he had had the FBI make and his putting a ghost on the public payroll. I know of no story that appeared. When the stories about how honest he is, how there is no money taint, started appearing, I did some reminding about Stiles. No stories. There seems to be a policy that the country needs a v.p. urgently so lets us close our eyes and grab the one we can. I did not see any of Ford's testimony until yesterday, when I saw the Times account of Tuesday, quoting "unday's. It says, without any doubt, that Ford LIED under oath and where I'd hoped he would, where I felt we could not open it because of the prejudice against assassination stories. But when Ford swore he had told no secrets, I hit the horn immediately. I phoned Orr Kelly at the Star(not in, no callback when I left word at the national desk as I did with others); national desk, Post, message with Hall, for Claiborne); KMPC, where I am sure Steinbrink gave story to Kevin if he got back to the office; CDN, where LF was on deadline but he took enough for their nat. desk. to know; and some others. Howard was here. I counted six calls before we went to bed last night. I also called John Hanrahan. who is on the Pist's metro desk, about another matter. When he called back I told him this also, with dates and quotes of Archives correspondence on withheld 1/27 ex sess. It is a quite comprehensible story and factually unquestionable. Although John is not on this story, he went farther and phoned Archives and was told that the 1/27 ex sess is still withheld. He agrees that Ford lied under oath and with my formulation that Ford has copyrighted the top secret for personal profit. He told me that he left a full explanation with the national desk. This was well before supper. I believe before I went for "il about 4:30. No callback from nat desk. I also left message for Martin Waldron at the desk of his Tallahassee motel. He was in. His line was busy when I phoned. And an hour later, another call, and he had not picked tge message up although his message light was on for an hour.