

Dear Jim,

11/16/73

NOV 17 1973

Yesterday I was taking trees down shirtless in 80° heat, higher temperature than I can remember for November around here. (I have a picture of me trying up some notes in N.O. later in November, sitting on a porch wearing shorts only and this was that kind of day.) Tonight it is freezing, with 40 m.p.h. winds which filter into my office. Nixon weather, we might call it, changeable as his spirits.

Anyway, instead of being more uncomfortable than real patriotism requires and yielding to the temptation to hear some fine baroque chamber music, first in a long time, I cleaned up some odds and ends of reading, including Szulc's Dominican Diary (expressed opinion not changed) and started Ehrlichman's testimony.

This is the reason for this note. I feel we may all have been so stunned by his arrogant and contemptuous behavior that we may have missed some of his exact words. Limited as his purposes in his opening statement were, he said much and more than I think he intended. The arrogant can do this easily, their arrogance telling them that whatever meaning they contrive will be accepted by others.

I noted one major contradiction in the prepared statement besides some illumination. His picture of the Nixon White House is one in which the top dogs barked without being ordered to. He said that some had to be and were expected to be "self starters."

Even he describes Nixon as an isolated man, isolated from those closest to him. This part I have trouble beginning, but he did say it. They saw GL only when GL wanted to see them. He says.

It interested me that he claims to have seen GL more often when he was counsel than when he became Asst Pres. This would mean that Dean should have seen GL often, but he did not. I have used this but forget the figures. Putting this all together and taking Ehrlichman's own description of the duties of counsel, it seems that Nixon did not want to see him through all the WG matters until it got hot. This can mean only that Nixon had no need to see him.

No matter how big a liar the man is, this is fascinating stuff.

Also, I did not know that Waldeman had had a Connecticut home.

Best,