

OCT 27 1976

Dear Js,

10/26/76

This is an indecisive moment in which I'm engaged in trying to decide and wish I were in a position to take counsel. I'm trying to decide whether to try to hold a press conference day after tomorrow, which is the day before my next court appearance in an FOIA matter.

Last night I'd about decided against it. This morning I feel I must but if I reach this firm conclusion don't know if I can make the arrangements for a good place.

The college man I'd been depending on has stayed out of touch. I have a release complete except for the time and place in the hands of some good 20-year old college women who are willing but without the experience.

There is some hazard in this as there is in using my phone as completely as I'd like to. The content is pretty hard stuff. I've limited myself in conversations to what is without WG connection. That connection exists in a number of forms

I suppose in the back of my mind I've been considering this for some time but had depended on Les Payne. However, his South African visa came through earlier than indicated and he left in a rush. His editor referred me to another Newsday reporter, who was quite excited, and then got assigned to the last-minutes of the campaign trail. He called me after I'd taken another initiative, with AP. This followed a negative reaction from George Lardner. The AP decision appears not to be final. Indications are what you'd expect with something tough: nitpicking and looking for outs, not a story. I suggested some obvious questions of some obvious people. David Martin said he'd ask and get back. With enough time yesterday for this he did not.

It is, essentially, the misuse of FOIA to protect Ford from his Warren Commission McCarthyism. The use of the machinery of government to protect him from this. The subject is not any commission investigation. It is Mr. Good Guy as he really is. Yesterday was five months since the judge agreed to an in camera inspection of that transcript. Day after tomorrow will be five months since we filed an affidavit with strong changes, accompanied with some of the extensive documentation we have. Silence. Interrogatories to have been answered promptly remain unanswered. Stonewalling with judicial assent.

WG involves the Ford-Hunt-Caddy-Bennett Mullen connection over Douglas, unexposed.

As of now the probabilities are that those reporters who might arrange a Nat. Press Club room are on the trail. I'll try later in the day.

The Newsday man told me to call the Star's editor using his name. Lonnie Hudkins referred me to a friend of his on the NY Post. Have these to try. But the problems here are from my own indecisiveness, the problems of time. I'll make those efforts later today.

Once AP said they'd lock into it, and did, I was immobilized yesterday. This made me a bit uneasy so while waiting to hear further I worked on the files, having found the drawer I'd mislaid in shifting by not changing the label on it. When suppertime came without a callback I caught up on old reading that had stacked. Even finished Jaworski's book, ~~XXX~~ (It is without positive values but is rich in the negatives and unintended self-disclosures.) Atypically sleep was not continuous. I've been up since about 4. The tentative decision to try to go ahead began an hour later when I started the ambulatory day. Pepped a bit by the early morning jazz broadcast I like it is not to try. I don't know if this is reason or the mix of honkytonk and boggie.

I'll be involving Silbert and his practises as US Attorney, thanks to the payoff to him on Watergate, and I'll be using some of what he did not; and his assistants and their lying and deceptions of the courts; and Ford as beneficiary/boss. All with specifics and documents I have. It will take some searching to locate them all with the file shifting that has been going on, more since an experiment seems to be working out. I even ordered more cabinets for the basement yesterday. As of now in my 10x12 office I have 8 4-drawer cabinets, 4 2-drawer and 2 half-sized 2-drawer. The new experiment consisted of putting a regular 2-drawer one on a platform with 4 expensive and very good crazy-wheels so I can move it, wintertime in front of the air conditioner, summertime in front of the French doors leading to the porch. I think I can get another one in use that way. But the overflow in the cellar is still largely in boxes and inaccessible. Anyway I didn't waste the waiting time.

Just didn't do what I wanted to. But I'll have to decide firmly today. Best,

*Mu*