

6 March 1974

Dear Harold:

Thanks for your letter of March 2, the one with the bad news about the plumbing. Hope it wasn't as bad as it seemed and that you now are again with water rather than without.


I was particularly glad to have what appears to be your agreement with my doubts about Knowland. In the last mailing we sent you a columnist's squib about a compiler of obits getting a reaction from Knowland that was anything but suicidal.

Regardless of the fact that Byck's adventure at the Baltimore airport threatened no press figure, we are inclined to include both Byck and the kid who landed the chopper on the WH lawn as parts of the same series along with Hearst, Murphy, Knowland and now, Mar. 6, the story in today's Chronicle from Akron, Ohio, about the threat to kidnap the son of the publisher of the Beacon-Journal.

If there is actually a pattern in all these things it raises the questions of who is carrying on for the Plumbers and their associates. Incidentally, we suggest that both Byck and the chopper lad exhibited behavior which fits the post-hypnotic suggestion pattern of Sirhan and Bremer. Might think about it.

We have the NY Times for the 28th (but not the WXPost yet) and the only thing in the Times about the RFK papers is a very short AP story from Waltham, Mass., only three grafs long, which appears to tell nothing beyond the fact that some papers are being released. I'll copy it with the next lot of things to copy and send it along for the record.

We are inclined to think the SLA may be keeping silent re Miss Hearst for more than one reason, but mostly because they may think Hearst disobeyed their instructions. Remember that after he came up with the \$2 million plan and they demanded \$4 million more as a good faith gesture, they repeated their warnings to follow instructions to the letter. Well, Hearst replied that that the \$4 million was beyond him, and turned the matter over the the Hearst Corp., which said it would provide it IF Patricia were released first. This put the Hearsts in the position of telling the SLA what would and would not be done, and the SLA has done exactly what it said it would do in such case, broken off communications. In her last tape Patricia specifically warned against stupid tricks and said the SLA would do exactly what it said it would. The Hearsts (through publisher Charles ~~W. Gould~~ Gould) changed their line only after Kelley and Saxbe came to LA, loudly proclaiming that the trip had nothing to do with the Hearst case, but which no one believes. Frankly, I cannot be surprised that the SLA is silent.

Your mention of Stanford Research Institute in connection with GL's new tape expert and psychic research leads me to caution not to downgrade this psychic research thing. Actually, it's para-psychology, including telekinesis, telepathy and all such stuff. SRI is a big and prestigious outfit, as you no doubt know, which had to be separated from Stanford U at student and faculty demand because it was doing so much war-related research for the govt. I have no doubt their para-psychological work is well-funded through the type of foundations we all have come to know something about. The Russians appear to be well ahead of us in learning what there is to know about telekinesis and telepathy and possible military and space applications. Best,  jdw