

Dear Jim,

8/21/75 AUG 22 1975

Your 8/17 with enclosures came today. Before working off some of the feeling that developed partly from the emotion generated by the chapter I wrote beginning 4 a.m. - the only way I can have undisturbed time - a few comments on your fascinating tracing of and theorizing about the bone of the Peking man. I've read the letter only, not the attached Times story, because as soon as I handle the rest of the day's mail that requires my attention I want to get back to writing so that I can finish it before Howard, who phoned last night, gets here next week. I do need someone to go over these things with an independent judgement of what is really necessary as a matter of available record, not for literary purposes.

I made a few marks on your letter as I read it to guide me in this hasty comment.

Nixon's unwillingness to discuss Watergate in his TV deal lasted only as long as a major net with a sophisticated news staff was in the bidding. It got them out while jacking the price up. He can handle Frost and Frost's money sources, so he can use this as part of his justification of himself.

In saying "no open part in campaigning" I think you touched on a point that is being missed. How about his not open political activity? Reduced as it is, Nixon still has a following. The 3M repairman who came here day before yesterday used to work in the Nixon White House. He is not for WG but he is still for Nixon. He represents those who should know better but would still follow Nixon preference. Ford ought not be too happy about a situation in which his only possible following is reduced by a Wallace and endangered by a Nixon.

Ford as possible blackmailed into pardoning Nixon: Ziegler was on ABC's a.m. news (ugh) program yesterday. He was asked this and spent a long time not answering. Reynolds was considerate enough not to note the verbal stonewalling. The question was had there been a deal. Ziegler never answered.

Nixon is a man singularly without accomplishment. You and he are both right in regarding it as his triumph and you in noting that it was available to him only because he had denied it to any other president.

Taking his desire for the ambassadorship a step further, it can in his own mind add to his accomplishment after his debasement and make him feel like a real success and it can be what he and his would regard as total absolution.

He does have a need for attention. It is part of his need to feel that he really is somebody when deep down he knows he isn't. I agree what what I think you are saying, that while he may not be running around making speeches his silence will be in public only and that he has let it be known that in private he will do as he sees fit.

In context this does become a kind of blackmail.

Your theorizing about the potential of using the bones in this is fascinating.

There is nothing that could do the same/ as delivering them.

but time is breathing down his neck.

So may the courts be. (The suit on his tapes has missed what might be an important legal technicality, a special law on film.)

I'd like to believe that the federal judges are beginning to worry a little about their finking. That is what I was writing early this a.m. (Do you remember anyone really addressing this from the record?)

There is much I'd have liked to consider further on this fascinating bit.

But I have to keep up with the mail and I want to have all the text of the add done before Howard gets here so he can recommend cutting before he starts work on helping decide what priorities there are in the appendix and suggesting annotation.

If the Enquirer doesn't go for anything their good reporter took back I'm to get enough from it to pay Howard, who phoned in happiness that was mutual last night.

Best,