

Dear Jin,

5/19/74

Last night I caught up on all the back clippings except the last TIME and several long Post stories. Of course, I haven't had time to read the transcripts yet. As usual, the stories were those I did not have and your co.umnists are great.

It has been some time since I've seen the Coup Question raised and Loory does it interestingly and well. However, perhaps because of space, there are factors, also uncertainties, he could or did not address. And I believe it is getting toward that time again.

If the time comes when the military takes control, it will not require all that many men or, in fact, leaders, unless the rest are prepared for civil war. And I think they will not be.

In recent decades there have been changes at the top rarely talked about. This is a new career from which the top people retire at an active age. They almost all go into new career, and these careers are with military-oriented corporations. Old soliders....

From the time of the Great Depression, again rarely talked about, our entire economy has been military oriented. And the great need of the land is a reversal of this. So, one of the considerations in the minds of the top brass will be what will happen to their careers if forces are turned on or loose?

They may not see Ford as as much a patron as Nixon, if Ford's record is this. And the closer it gets to election time, the more they will be concerned about two other things: the almost certainty of a Ford/GOP defeat and the possibility of a McGovern-McCarthy type getting the Democratic nomination.

One of the consequences of WGI has been to sour most people on any kind of politics. This means that a smaller number of activists can exert greater influence. The military may well fear a popular administration. They may bracket this with economic problems which can be addressed at the cost of military expenditures only. And, of course, they will regard themselves as the true saviors, as they always do, from some fancied threat they always invent to justify everything.

While there are exceptions, the military tend to be authoritarian. Nixon has given us the most authoritarian administration ever. And some of his changes will linger. Like the Supreme Court, law-enforcement officials, etc. Or, he has suited the military well. They may not like his crudeness but they do like what he has done.

So, either way there could still be military intervention, to get Nixon out, as long ago I think we agreed might happen, or to keep him in. We don't really know enough about them any more. Except that they have become more politicized. But they have their own concepts, not those of the civilian.

My own feeling continues to be that despite his apparent coolness compared with the recent past, Nixon has been a desparate man since Ehrlichman started giving what I then interpreted and still interpret as signals because this injected new elements into his game plan of stalling. That the Plumbers' case is before Gessell, the so-called liberal, may be a break for Nixon. I have not changed my opinion that releasing the transcripts is part of this desparation and that the consequences were recognized and had to be risked. It also gives Nixon a basis for arguing, a position of sorts that with absolute refusal he would not have had. And as always, it serves as still another diversion.

I have been having trouble condensing this as part of a comprehensible opening chapter that will say all that has to be said prior to going into the material that I call new stuff, to which I want to restrict myself. So, I haven't despite the need for speed, let it cool a little while I addressed other needs and problems. (Another element, not to write what can be changed by events.) I have spent much of several days in what for me now is hard outside work and I hope the consequences will be good. No more open ditch for the roof runoff and with grass on the earth that covers the 4" drain tile I can mow straight across the side of the hill, considerably reducing the effort of mowing by eliminating all those hilly turns. I've got the pool chemically pure enough for swimming, with a fair amount of organic settlement still to filter out. And much of yesterday I hand mowed the non-grassly slopes, which are pretty rough. Tiring but good. I think that aside from the need to do this work in the dim recesses was the notion that it might help me work my way out of a state I can't really define, whatever it is that causes what I agree with you rather than the doctor has some kind of body "defense" that took the form of a loss of a sense of balance. In fact, of Balance. That is improving. Hope it is good sign. Thanks. Best,