

Tele. Watergate texts

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

ITT WASHINGTON OFFICE
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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

TO: Mr. W. R. Merriam
FROM: John F. Ryan
SUBJECT: Highpoints

DATE: August 24, 1970

Bill,

Here are just a few items that I wanted to be sure I don't miss when I bring you up to date verbally:

1. Antitrust

You know of my call on Stans on the 19th (you have a copy of my note covering the visit which I sent to Ned), and HSC's call to me of the 20th. I attempted to explain to Hal that Stans' comments shouldn't necessarily be construed to be a recommendation -- it was more in the vein of Stans thinking out loud, suggesting some tangible starting point. Hal's posture is, as you well know, that we have done nothing wrong, that we will do nothing wrong, and that Justice (McLaren) is unfairly harrassing us. As we discussed this morning, the first trial dates are rapidly approaching. Obviously, somebody is going to have to get the ball rolling, either on their side or ours; if there is to be a settlement.

I assume that following our telecon this morning you looked at Ned's memo describing his visit with Agnew. If Kleindienst follows through, this may be the break for which we have been looking. An obvious question here is: How will McLaren react? -- or another way to put it, How good a Republican is McLaren?