

JUL 18 1972

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7/17-In a few in-between moments, a note for non-TVers.  
CBS TV Sat night and Sunday repeat, aired Agronsky and four and  
NBC (Today) aired three nationally-know correspondents in apprais-  
als of Dem. conv, McG and his chances. Without exception all said  
race would be close, even James J. Kilpatrick. None said McG  
had even a smell now, all said he'd gain strength rapidly (which is  
both a tribute to him and downgrading Nixon and RNC), and with one  
exception, all were instinting in praise of the McG organization.  
Don Oberdorfer quoted Conn.'s committeeman Foley as saying the  
pre-convention organizational work superior to JFK, but he expected  
it to collapse at conv. But he says that, too, infintely better  
than JFK, quite a tribute! Oberdorfer, however, said he found  
this untrue, and as his sole example he cited the independence in  
the v-p nominations. All who commented said the deciding factor  
would be the voter-registration campaign. Most suggested in one  
way or another they expect Nixon gaffes to help McG. I'll besendin  
local clip to illustrate that conservative Democrats at grass  
roots falling in line, elected hacks not....In talking about  
change not reform I've not made explicit my belief that with pro-  
per handling and some hazard this can extend to reactionary top  
labor leadership, esp. the 77-yr-old Meany. I don't expect favor-  
able response to the letter you now have, but I felt it best to  
make them aware of the option, nobody being able to see what may be  
ahead or to anticipate excesses of which entrenched baddies may  
be capable in feeling the winds of change. I feel much if not most  
of labor can and will support McG, including a decent % of those  
who voted for Wallace...Eagleton was impressive on CBS Face the  
Nation yesterday. He comes thru as another honest man, not a ranter  
or raver...In the rerun excerpt of Teddy's speech, made when I  
was asleep, I felt he had become an orator without sacrifice of  
appearance of honesty and Mr. Clean....What was one of the sur-  
prises was the unawareness of the big name reporters, columnists,  
of changed values. They all ridiculed organization for denying  
McG et al prime time on speeches, not recognizing the essentiality  
of the reasons to the change that has begun. HW

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7/17/72 Social commentary: we had a bad prison riot near Baltimore  
over the weekend. Admitted damage \$1,000,000. Admitted also is the  
fact that conditions are abominable, grevances legitimate and known  
to everyone. Now that \$1,000,000 of unavailable money has been wasted,  
some will be spent. Plus this \$1,000,00.

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Chalk one for Jane Fonda, who got TV net news play on her  
Hanoi statement that she had seen bombed dams and dikes. Laird today  
admitted the bombings had happened. Only they are not targets. Guess  
that rebuilds them authomatically, restored the land and property and  
maybe lives, too. The Laird statement, without reference to Fonda,  
was aired NBC local-outlet TV news this p.m. I suspect nets will  
handle but similarly, no ref. to Fonda. They have, earlier, shown  
pix said to be of bombed dikes, wut with no water, who can tell from  
closeup pix?

Hope Fonda remembered her camera! She get a TV play with picture  
she took personally, I think.

If my slightly-insulting letter to Garrison doesn't work, I have  
lost nothing. I can't imagine I von not sending that stuff unless Jim  
told him not to. There will never be any way of knowing. H

NBC-TV net news had longer Laird film: he admits but pretends not to,  
claiming military targets at dams, dikes, etc. And they followed this  
with a cutie: "The woman in this helmet is Jane. Fonda. Last week she  
made an appearance on Hanoi radio encouraging Ameerican troops to  
lefect to North Mietnam."