

30 July 1972

Dear Harold:

Enclosed is a dub of a comprehensive report on the policy of bombing of the dykes in North Vietnam, by far the best thing we've come across on it, including a lengthy interview with Jane Fonda. I know you've seen her on TV since she returned, but it's doubtful if she was able to unload quite so freely. Don't return. There is much here of interest and value besides what she says.

Your 17 and 18 have come in, and aside from ~~the~~ ^{here} our enclosures, the only thing that needs to be dealt with is your request that we go after the Larry Bensky tape. Since the time you made that request, we have sent you full and detailed clippings which contain all that Bensky had and more, ~~that is~~ ^{in addition} to Jenifer's letter of 20 July 72 quoting a ~~part of the same~~ ^{part of the tape} tape, we've sent NYTimes and NO States-Item for 14 July, NYT 15 July 72, NYT July 20, Freep 21 July 72, and NO-SI 21 July 72.

Unfortunately Bensky is staying in Miami Beach from one convention to the next, so he's not available from here. And things at the station are so chaotic under the new regime that took over a year ago that, believe me, it is quite impractical to get a tape or anything else out of them. That is over ~~and~~ and above the problem they would have to dig ~~out~~ a three-or four minutes interview out of several hours of tape they ran from Miami Beach that day -- and we can't cite the day ~~of~~ the original tape was run. As for Stein, we don't know him and he hasn't the foggiest notion of us, so about all he could do would be to refer us to the station, which as I said is hopeless. If he's marketing their tapes to colleges, he'd be dealing in fully prepared programs, not with fragments like this.

At this writing, Sunday night, McGovern has been weakening, apparently, before the pressures on him to dump Eagleton. Our feeling is that if he gives in he's done for. His major asset, we think, is the image he has going of a man of conviction and determination, and if he gives in to the pros and the hacks on this he'll lose this.

Our hope, not very high at the moment, is that he's NOT going to give in but is stretching out announcing his decision in order to give the impression of considering all angles, as of course he should. Either Eagleton is qualified or he isn't. If he isn't, he should go, but it hasn't been demonstrated yet. If he is, then what has been brought up about him is so trivial that it deserves no more than careful consideration.

Very early in the Jack Anderson thing we considered the possibility that Anderson was cooperating in breaking these ridiculous drunk driving charges and getting them out of the way long before the dirty trick department of the other side could spread the same or similar dirt. Thus far we've found practically nothing to bear out such a theory. Certainly the agitation among the pros appears to indicate that if this is what is going on, they've not been dealt in, which would seem unlikely. Be interesting if you've had any similar thoughts.

Best,

jdw