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Dear Js,

X I taped Weicher on Mett the Press. I'll hold the tape until I hear that you caught the show. I found much to my liking in it but have no reason to keep the tape.

Weicher presents himself as a man of highest principle. Perhaps he is and perhaps this is his dominating motive. However, I can find one easier to believe and more compelling should he turn out to be less noble in spirit: his own political needs and GOP political expediency. This is what I have been feeling for some time. The GOPs who have to stand for election can't survive Watergate. They fear even more the potential of this dirtyworks that has not yet come to light. So, while they may all be indignant and offended at this subversion, they have a more practical problem, their own futures. This leaves them little, almost no choice.

I believe this was the most emphasized, the most repeated single point. Weicher from the first drew a sharp distinction between the RNC and the Creeps. He called them "creeps", to Lil's satisfaction. He also made clear the identity of personnel and control Creep and White House personnel. He fell short of what he has said in private about Haldeman, but he left little doubt, I think, that he believes Haldeman was the honcho.

I found interesting the manner in which he defended the President and said GL had nothing to do with this endeavor. It is not because GL is so pure in soul, so incapable of dirtydickery. It is because he was too busy! How much more dedicated to the GL can one be than Weicher is? Again, re-election needs, not love or respect, so perish the thought, GL could not have been party to this.

It is also interesting that he managed to disclose nothing new. This suggests that he may not be the committee's leak. The leaks can serve the purpose of undermining the committee and faith in what it says, so maybe it is Baker? He is closer to GL.

Neither reporter raised the question of John's Other Life. Finally George Herman did. Nobody raised any Martha "oves John questions, despite its sort of sensational part of today's news (except in the Washington Post, which made no mention, with more than four columns, mostly rehash, on WG and L.Pat.)

Weicher took a strict position: he wants proof or corroboration of hearsay. Leave it to need to produce principle.

(According to radio reports, this time Martha went farthur, pointing directly at, really accusing, the White House of framing her dead John, adding the over-my-dead-body bit. Martha has never before not been news in the Post. I believe this is another reflection of their weird machismo on the subject. She didn't call the Post; she called UPI's Helen Thomas. No Post story. No front-page WG story of any kind. But there ~~will~~ were 11 columns in width of undated features, largest on the coming Olympics. That is page 1 but a cabinet-wife's charges against GL are not? not worthy of mention, either?)

I got the impression that Gray and Weicher, both from the same state, are good friends. Does Gray's treatment give Weicher animus?