

Dear Jim, I'll probably be treating Nixon as unrepentant, arrogant as ever, determined to follow the same wrong and wrong-headed policies, and not a whit less the authoritarian after WH and the attendant sensations. For this I think the Godley nomination (and persistence in it in the face of strong opposition) provides a fine illustration. HR has my VN files. Were I to ask him, he'd go over them and select out a few illustrative stories. In a pinch what the WxPost carried today would suffice. I write because you may recall enough to perhaps provide a few more pointed grafts on the specifics of his record. If you have time. And if you do NOT have to look anything up. Not worth that extra time...Today I got copies of several of my 1964 Nixon-VN stories that are not complete as my memory tells me but are more than enough to show he lied, deliberately, in that speech in which he claimed to have had no part in the war he inherited and his enemies started. It was good of Howard to find time for that because it tells me I am on firm ground in my recollections, in which I have less faith than I once did. He was fascinated by the story I'd told him about the Cummings house GL bought, so he checked it in the Times index and found it was 1/27/57 and instead of \$50,000 as I recalled, \$67,500. THAT house and all that land in that part of town? NEVER! (Wish I had time for a title search on this. It would show how much Cummings paid and when, how much GL did (and to whom if it was some kind of sweetheart deal))...Guess HR has made up the time he lost when he was here. Nothing new carbons don't report...Missed much of Mitchell because of Post conversations and decided to read unread stories instead of listening to reruns tonight. Fell asleep listening to last night reruns, having missed the hearing because I was in DC...Got interrupted toward the end of Moore, who is something else...Dash pulled punches on Mitchell. He was close to breaking. No member of the committee pursued, either. HW 7/12/73

All the accounts I've seen and heard about yesterday's fire at the St. Louis records center refer to GSA operation. Actually, it is Archives, which is part of DGA. We can conjecture only about the records lost, but it seems not unreasonable to wonder if among those military records might not be those of The Ft. Jackson Brigade, spooking, spooks, etc. With persistent efforts at arson, all, seeming, after WG, and with some of the odd WG involvements, like McCord's list preparations, there could be some kind of connection.

HW 7/13/73

How remarkably like so many other infections of sudden onslaught is Nixon's viral pneumonia! No, not a Watergatebug, we can be sure. But the timing of this, his first illness, sure is remarkable! ... Tonight I mailed the Hunt galleys. It can't be all. When you have finished please send to Jim Lesar, 1231 4 St., SW, DC 20024. ... Rather enjoyed the jiggling of the Ervin jowls this afternoon as he had his fun with Moore. Too bad you can't see (unless you visit). The exclamatory punctuation of his brows, even when unintended, is a delight. In any event, I enjoy it...I also enjoy what is happening to the Nixon rebuttal and to his own destruction of the credibility of his Nazi Mafia by withholding the files. But, of course, he'd be worse off if he didn't. Best HW 7/13/73

Jim, re Chastain's letter: I see nothing to confirm his conclusion and am inclined to doubt it. However, I'd trust his fact, and part of it is in an area that interests me, where I have some beliefs. I tried to borrow Thompson's tapes to listen with care. Couldn't. He played them and talked, and sometimes Awaks was talking at the same time, so it was impossible. However, I have no doubt that something was done by these characters and I do have some beliefs about some of their activities. So, when they appear, if they do, I'd like to see the pieces. Or if you see the mss. Thanks HW 7/11/73

Russell X

"Young Howard" JUL 14 1973

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