

Note to self of which I thought marked part might interest.
I haven't gone over my earlier notes, but I must have addressed
this, esp. with DJ, prosecutors.

Press and WG: In the course of continuing to separate and file the clips of the early period, it became apparent that to a certain point real coverage was WxPost alone. No real work was done by any other paper. From my own experiences, I was giving out good stories, viable leads, with no takers. I wonder if the Post would have persevered as it did if not for the Nixon counterattacks on it. Or, if he goaded the Post into the fine work it did? (I still have seen no sign of the Post going out and doing real digging-only collecting from others.) Then, when there were breaks, probably begun in the most significant way by McCord, the story and the coverage began to change. While the Times had had Hersh try it out well after the Post had earned its Pulitzer, he came up with little, leaving it still Post all the way. However, when the thing became to come apart, it was as one of my notes anticipated, they principals were all at each other's throats, and there was a use for the Times, feeding it what some special interests wanted out. One can go over the papers (as I shall not) and see this fight in them. One I remember that illustrates is the Nixon gang feeding anti-Dean stuff to the Times, I think on his efforts to get immunity (which hurt his chances) and an immediate counterattack by Dean, his leaking of some of his papers to the Post, which carried the very next day. Not that Nixon had much choice, for with prosecutorial immunity, Dean might have said more. But as the story ripened, those with axes to grind turned the journalistic grindstones, mostly Post, Times, TIME and Newsweek. If as I genuinely do believe, the record of the Post is a credit to it (given especially their and all management and editorial hangups) the fact remains that it and all other papers of which I know refused to use what was given by those not party pris. Some of the more sensational developments I tried repeatedly to get it to go into, plus Star, Time, LATimes, Chi Daily News, CBS, NBC. From a number I got encouraging responses, all dropped, until Barry Sussman personally heard of me (perhaps from me first). (Individual reporters who knew me did phone for backgrounding and info.) Not until after the Dean testimony did I find anyone interested in pursuing Hunt's record, and there I also tried and tried hard, with the solid, and early, because early it was possible. The Post wouldn't even take the Hunt-assassin story. NBC kept the tapes and transcripts for months and didn't return after four requests. The London Times front-paged and no US paper picked it up. Finally, when this story was filed to UPI, mild interest developed and the Post got the proofs (from Szulc?) and did a story and developed further interest without recalling what I had told it a year earlier, when I couldn't give it away again. HW 7/21/73 JUN 21 1973