

8 October 1973

Dear Harold:

Herewith an accumulation of stuff, including a copy of Peter Dale Scott's piece on Dallas-Watergate connections in the November Ramparts. Nothing else in this issue which needs your attention.

Before I forget it, we've decided we'd like a copy of that issue of the Congressional Quarterly containing the Watergate chronology if it's not too much of a damned nuisance for you and/or Lesar. I understand it's \$6. There'll be postage, of course, and if you can estimate that, or obtain an estimate, let me know and I'll send you a check for the total. If this is workable without too much exertion, should I make out the check to you, Lesar, or cash? No hurry, of course. Be sure to include any other costs in the estimate.

I hope to get to a library within a day or so to check on Mullen, Bennett and Cushman biographical sketches. Going out this afternoon on an errand, but it's Columbus Day for the Post Office, and the library may be closed also.

Unfortunately, we were paying no more attention than you when Hunt testified as to his connection with the Mullen agency. We have the tape for both days (both of which we watched, too) but cannot take the time to audit the whole thing and have no idea where this material would be located.

We did not catch all the nuances you did in his testimony, but did, quite independently, gather the impression that he was riding on a settlement or agreement of some kind. He seemed much less on edge, less resentful than one might have expected. We got the same impression you did of his attorney, Sachs. Very smooth and convincing.

We also have gained the impression recently that Agnew has some kind of a settlement or assurance. Whether it stems from the statute of limitations or from a much broader understanding with Nixon still isn't clear, but we suspect the latter because of Agnew's assured attitude at the dinner ~~for~~ for the New Zealand prime minister (Dorothy McArdle, WXPY and his support for Nixon ~~at the dinner~~ *after* ~~his~~ *his* critical attitude implied at Los Angeles.

We never, of course, have thought of the Agnew business as anything but a Nixon maneuver to interpose the whole problem ahead of Nixon's own impeachment threat. To assume that the Department of Justice could take off on its own on such a dramatic move without WH understanding is nonsense to us. Incidentally, Hearst Jr. hinted yesterday in his column that he suspects such an understanding between them. I did not copy it for you because the hint is heavily veiled and is not supported in the rest of his piece.

If there is such teamwork between Nixon and Agnew, it fits like everything <sup>else</sup> into the apparent pattern of continuing to fight it out, confronting all possible opponents with outrageous challenges involving painfully costly answers, riding out every crisis as it arises with the enormous reserve of WH initiative options, in short, hanging on until the witching hour of 1976, by which time confusion and disarray will have become so pervasive that almost any solution will look better to most people than more of the same.

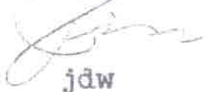
For some months I have tried to visualize what might happen if so much sensational stuff is disclosed that this holding pattern can no longer be maintained. The classic answer, of course, is a coup, but I always have had to ask how, practically speaking, this can be pulled off. I saw too basic difficulties: 1, to make a coup stick, you have to be able to rely on the military. 2, the public must somehow be capable of accepting it and not offer sufficient resistance to make the possibility of failure an unacceptable risk.

Both these factors are losing their weight as time goes on and confusion and stalemate spread. The military are becoming a body of pros since the end of the draft and already enjoy higher pay than the ~~max~~ population levels from which they are drawn or volunteer. In other words, a privileged class, less likely to place anything ahead of their privileges, real or fancied. Furthermore, we are rich in precedents like Greece, Vietnam and most lately Chile where precisely this factor, partly created by our own military aid programs, has played all important roles in the establishment of dictatorships. As for the public, there can be no question that its demoralization is being deepened and widened. The enclosed McCabe and Hoppe columns under today's date (Oct. 8) express very clearly how deep and how wide.

The other day we caught the tail end of a commentator's talk show on KPFA, by someone whose name was not mentioned at the end but who apparently was dealing with civil rights problems or some such, possibly with specific reference to those of military personnel. In any case some woman called in, sounding middle aged and the non-nonsense type. She wanted to know, what are we going to do about what is happening and about to happen. How are we going to avoid a coup? Who will run it, General Haig? "I used to work in military intelligence, and I'm telling you I cannot avoid knowing what is going on and what direction it's taking." At that point, the talk-jockey's time ran out and he signed off to make way for the next program. Anyway, it reminded me of the concern that I've had for some time. I suppose when this woman referred to things she noticed as a former G2 person she referred to seemingly innocent and unrelated bits that the ordinary person naturally would never notice or try to fit into a pattern. Things, for instance, such as obscure changes in the MP program, allocations, priorities and such which no ordinary person could be expected to recognize as having any more than routine meaning. I can think of none beyond those we already have noted, such as the federal influence over the police through LEAA and other devices. Anyway, I note all this for your attention and trust you'll keep an eye peeled. I take Chile very seriously.

I'll go through your Oct. 1 mailing again later and pick up any loose ends that have been neglected.

Best from us both,



jdw