

AUG 26 1974

Dear Js,

8/26/74

Interruptions having changed plans, I've gone over all the 8/22 enclosures.

I cannot avoid the obvious: SEM/W's return to good health holds other if less important benefits! SFChron 8/17/74 @ attached note.

The timing is impressive. None of the knowledge had been outside Haldeman's understanding but the coming disclosure was the significant thing. This would seem to date the recognition that it could be delayed no longer.

I do not think there was a bill of divorcement, Rather a separation of convenience. They're still in the same bed but not publicly. This makes even more probable the expectation I have had of possible use of the transcript.

In the sense of the 8/5 quote from "Unnamed criminal lawyer," there never was a time when Haldeman was not "down the tube." But he was held at the top. Perhaps better to say in the tube but not down it. He knew by phone 6/17, by courier/memo 6/20/72 and thereafter it was o.j. at least. Except. If he and GL together can make out what for them will not be a new case, that the spooks were not to be depended upon.

Don't write them out yet. Fact alone won't do them in.

Maybe I have it. But it certainly needs work, besides finishing the last couple of chapters. When I can get back into it while putting a book out and getting it around. I'm more satisfied than ever that I took what is essentially the right approach.

Shppard: I do remember the boxes and have written that part without ref to Nat Airport but with ref to ECB pickup and when and how. As part of what nobody has connected, the Colson story. Recently there were these Rocky yarns, downgraded to 7 boxes.

Remember our agreement on he who always copied? This obviously out-of-character story perfectly duplicates what happened to Rocky in the Goldwater debacle in Calif. And it is in accord with GL's game plan '72. Die hards die real hard. But a fascinating tale. I'd be interested in hearing of help in Chicago in 1968. Not that much was needed but they also overkill.

That marked "Having completed one task" line is marvelous! (NYTimes 8/10/74) Oh what a Hoppe could do with this, beginning with oil, energy, economy and taking off! However, I take it as sign of the sickness, the never-in-contact-with-reality thing. There is an alternative, that as the true believing authoritarian he still believes not that he did not violate a law but that the laws are wrong and he was right because he, unique genius, saw the need and undertook to meet it.

His total silence since is subject to different interpretations. One that he has really flipped and has to be hidden. Another that it is essential to his not being charged that he keep his mouth shut. Entirely. Perhaps both. I really think the politicians are afraid to let him be charged, can't prevent it and always have themselves in mind. The reception to Ford is disgusting but a forecast of what to expect. It is Nixon's best hope. That and causing no more offense because more is bound to out and he'll have it tough enough then. He has to live reverse Mitchell: when the tough get going, the going gets tough(er). His is a very delicate situation not only because everyone is so out of joint, including his own, ~~only~~ but because it is only a question of time before more that may be even more difficult to accept is known. Tough talk now or then could spring the loaded trap on him despite the national reluctance.

Best and thanks,

