

You make an excellent case for the political need for gradual, controlled revelations about UFOs, both for Nixon and Ford. I had assumed that it would be politically acceptable, otherwise it would not have been decided upon, but had not thought it through far enough to relate it to an actual need for a distraction of that magnitude and dramatic nature. I think you are quite right: there is great probability of such a need because the process of deterioration now going on cannot be arrested without changing the exploitive nature of the whole system, and we wouldn't want that, would we?

It seems likely to us here that Nixon, who quietly nursed and hoarded the China issue for 25 years (by making damned sure nobody else could use it) is just the fella to decide to use the UFO potential. And as you say, Ford's problems bid fair to equal or exceed Nixon's as far as ~~political~~ politico-economic difficulties are concerned.

Accordingly, I have dashed off a note to Lorenzen, pointing out that if he hasn't thought of it himself already, this decision is being made for reasons which have nothing to do with the only reason it should be done -- that the people have a right to know what's going on -- and that it can be turned off or aborted at any stage; furthermore, that there probably is division of opinion at the top as to its wisdom, so it can be expected to be contradictory and confusing and full of possible treachery. Govvamin't is govvamin't: its own survival comes first.

Very pleased indeed to learn from your memo on the success Lesar and you had in Memphis or wherever it was. It certainly sounds as though the judge paid serious attention to your memo, and let's hope the feds don't catch on to what is building up in time to head it off with a coup of some kind.

If we were living near you, I would be pleased -- we both would -- to offer editorial help on WWIV. However, at this distance it seems almost totally impractical to attempt anything that could turn out to be of any value. Anyone who tried it would simply have to be near enough for /constant consultation with you as to exactly what you mean to say, and I cannot see how anything resembling such coordination could be achieved at this distance, quite apart from the problem of the mails. Lesar and Howard both know what you're working with, so they would be my first suggestions. But any good newsman whom you could trust ought to be able to give you good workmanlike suggestions for clarity and organization. The operative words there, of course, concern trust. I understand your problem.

Thanks, we have both texts and dubs of GL's last two speeches and of Ford's first, so we won't need copies from you. Thanks for offering.

Best from us both,


jdw