

APR 28 1975

JDW,

4/26/75

There appears to be no real concern for my health. I do have pneumonia and aside from the discomfort of feeling feverish, to which I've adjusted so that when the temperature is merely over 100 I am not aware of feverishness, now that I've held some simple food down my concerns are that my activity will be limited for a while and that good rest is impossible. I can't really sleep in bed because I have to rest on the infected parts of lung, which protest spasmodically and without warning. Sharply, I add, too.

I suspect this has been coming on for a while and accounts for the accelerated feeling of fatigue and reduced capacity for physical activity. I was sick enough by the time I got to NYC to require a doctor. He was apprehensive on detecting four heart murmurs so he gave me a more careful checking at his office yesterday p.m. He then said that heart murmurs are not uncommon when the heart is fighting such an infection. An EKG yesterday was apparently normal.

While it was the last thing I felt like doing I went through the the press conference. It went very well, in terms of turnout and the kind and length of questions asked. (No single snide or dirty one!) Taping was quite extensive, so many local stations apparently carried parts on tape. The CBS outlet gave it exceptionally heavy play, beginning even before I could leave the room in the Roosevelt Hotel in which the conference was held. Thereafter, that had a different story each hour, at least. I returned to the hotel, not to leave except for the trip to the doctor until I left for home. Because I wanted to listen to news and could not get the Westinghouse station inside the hotel on the old and small set I carried, I had it tuned to the CBS station. I left the set on while I dozed, which is the way I spent about all the rest of the time. Sometimes I'd wake on hearing my name. Or become aware that the subject was being mentioned. The play was both heavy and good.

UPI had something on the early a.m. or overnight radio wire from a call I received from an old friend at Mutual early this a.m.

I did give out copies of the 1/22/64 ex sess transcript but I know of no real use of it, especially in the print press. Bill ~~W~~ Claiborne, of the Ex Post, now their NYC man, not only expressed interest in it but returned to discuss content I'd not read. But there was no story today in the Post, and I saw the late edition in NYC. (Surprisingly there ^{were} ~~was~~ at least as many discarded Posts as NYTs in Penn Station. Their WH reporting must have been profitable in terms of NYC circulation.) The questions were mostly on other matters. I did not then, for example, know of the Marianne Means piece but after hearing of it saw the cause of those questions. My interpretation, that the WC members were aware the Hoover and the FBI had boxed them in and made any real investigation impossible was used. I heard it. But not the expressive quotes.

The young ones were enthusiastic about the press conference, claiming never to have seen one so successful. They were overwhelmed by the size of the turnout and the response to me. Feverish as I was, I told them to await the actual counting of the chicks. But once they heard the favorable CBS (local) treatment they had all they wanted. Actually, I was so ~~w~~ weak and feverish I fell asleep talking to an assistant to a Congressman for N.J. sitting bold upright awaiting transportation back to the hotel. He was impressed and says he'll be looking me up. Judiciary, which is good.

The dirty tricks dept was well prepared. I was to have followed Lane but with Lesar to read my speech they switched him until last, which was pretty late with Lane rambling with his stock speech for two hours. As soon as Jim started reading someone turned off the videotapes the lights from which were also essential to his ability to read with ease. But I'd told nobody what I would be saying except that it would be an effort to set us on the only course that could be successful and responsible. The sponsors knew and agreed. I now suspect that those to whom they spoke drew the accurate interpretations. And acted. Jim was outraged at most of the speeches. The workshops no doubt were worse. If the effort was blunted by my illness it was made and is a little known. I think that after finals these Maryland kids may organize one in DC and there Congressional staffers may be. If it happens I'll read the same speech, edited, of course. Best, HW 