

24 November 1975

Dear Harold:

In making this dub for you of the Lane-Harv Morgan interview, we also tacked on at the end Belin's appearance on Face the Nation Sunday, Nov. 23. You should have both for the record in case you need them.

In assessing Belin's call for a new investigation, the fact that his advocacy was preceded by a trial balloon to the same effect floated around two weeks earlier by John Hart Ely (another WC attorney staffer) argues that the move is carefully planned and limited in purpose -- if possible to another whitewash. This appears to be another case of taking over a broader movement toward disclosure in order to control and limit it. I don't believe it would have been done unless the planners think they see their way through to controlling it adequately for their purposes.

Regarding your suggestion that perhaps now may be the time for "force" reasonably full disclosure, I think any such attempt would generate maximum opposition. Too many disparate elements have a stake in maintaining the status quo. Their reasons may be different and self-serving, but their purpose and unanimity on that purpose remains the same. If there's any hope in bringing about real disclosure it lies in bringing about situations where one or more may decide survival depends on sacrificing others, as in Watergate. There, but for the den-of-thieves psychology that brought about what disclosures we did get, the coverup would have worked.

In Belin's appearance on Face the Nation we were uncommonly interested in the nervous tic which distorted the right side of his face. Bright lights could account for it, but we wonder if you saw anything of the sort in Nashville where the lights may not have been quite so irritating. At the same time, we thought we saw it coming on at times when he was treading what could have been hazardous ground. Be much interested in any light you can shed on this. To be willing to go on national TV with an affliction like that shows great determination, to say the least.

By the way, we watched and taped the ABC special on the assassinations, then erased the tape as quickly as possible. Utterly worthless, nonsense and Hollywood froth.

The CBS special begins here tomorrow night, late and poorly promoted following the cancellation a week earlier. Still not clear how it's going to be presented. An hour is scheduled for tomorrow night, and a second hour the next night, with no word whether the other two hours will follow later. We expect to tape whatever we get in case there's anything interesting about it.

It was good to talk to you ~~Sunday~~ Saturday and to learn you're feeling Better and taking care of yourself. Keep it up. Best from us both,

jdw