

13 September 1973

Excerpt from "Meet the Press" by Timothy Crouse (on how the media correspondents work covering Watergate~~xx~~ hearings):

....The most striking thing about much of the press conversation in the Caucus Room is its similarity to SDS talk of the late Sixties. Otherwise mild-mannered reporters start using expressions like "Nazi," "Fascist," and "fucking liar" every time they glance at the Witness Chair. One morning during Ehrlichman week, three of the most responsible reporters in Washington stood around and discusses, at least half seriously, the possibility of Nixon's staging a coup. Clark Mollenhoff, Jack Nelson, the Los Angeles Times's ace investigative reporter, and Richard Dudman, a veteran correspondent for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, calmly discussed the odds that Nixon would declare martial law, that the Army would be loyal, that the Attorney General would back the President and the Supreme Court would go along. "He couldn't get away with it," Mollenhoff said finally, "'cause the press and the country aren't going to sit still for it."
"Besides," Dudman said quietly, "Nixon just isn't half the man Hitler was."

(Article returned to Weisberg.)