

JUL 18 1972

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7/17-In a few in-between moments, a note for non-TVers.

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CBS TV Sat night and Sunday repeat, aired Agronsky and four and NBC (Today) aired three nationally-know correspondents in appraisals of Dem. conv, McG and his chances. Without exception all said race would be close, even James J. Kilpatrick. None said McG had even a smell now, all said he'd gain strength rapidly (which is both a tribute to him and downgrading Nixon and RNC), and with one exception, all were instinting in praise of the McG organization. Don Oberdorfer quoted Conn.'s committeeman Foley as saying the pre-convention organizational work superior to JFK, but he expected it to collapse at conv. But he says that, too, infintely better than JFK, quite a tribute! Oberdorfer, however, said he found this untrue, and as his sole example he cited the independence in the v-p nominations. All who commented said the deciding factor would be the voter-registration campaign. Most suggested in one way or another they expect Nixon gaffes to help McG. I'll besendin local clip to illustrate that conservative Democrats at grass roots falling in line, elected hacks not....In talking about change not reform I've not made explicit my belief that with proper handling and some hazard this can extend to reactionary top labor leadership, esp. the 77-yr-old Meany. I don't expect favorable response to the letter you now have, but I felt it best to make them aware of the option, nobody being able to see what may be ahead or to anticipate excesses of which entrenched baddies may be capable in feeling the winds of change. I feel much if not most of labor can and will support McG, including a decent % of those who voted for Wallace...Eagleton was impressive on CBS Face the Nation yesterday. He comes thru as another honest man, not a ranter or raver...In the rerun excerpt of Teddy's speech, made when I was asleep, I felt he had become an orator without sacrifice of appearance of honesty and Mr. Clean....What was one of the surprises was the unawareness of the big Oname reporters, columnists, of changed values. They all ridiculed organization for denying McG et al prime time on speeches, not recognizing the essentiality of the reasons to the change that has begun. HW

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7/17/72 Social commentary: we had a bad prison riot near Baltimore over the weekend. Admitted damage \$1,000,000. Admitted also is the fact that conditions are abominable, grevances legitimate and known to everyone. Now that \$1,000,000 of unavailable money has been wasted, some will be spent. Plus this \$1,000,00.

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Chalk one for Jane Fonda, who got TV net news play on her Hanoi statement that she had seen bombed dams and dikes. Laird today admitted the bombings had happened. Only they are not targets. Guess that rebuilds them authomatically, restored the land and property and maybe lives, too. The Laird statement, without reference to Fonda, was aired NBC local-outlet TV news this p.m. I suspect nets will handle but similarly, no ref. to Fonda. They have, earlier, shown pix said to be of bombed dikes, wut with no water, who can tell from closeup pix?

Hope Fonda remembered her camera! She get a TV play with picture she took personally, I think.

If my slightly-insulting letter to Garrison doesn't work, I have lost nothing. I can't imagine Ivon not sending that stuff unless Jim told him not to. There will never be any way of knowing. H

NBC-TV net news had longer Laird film:he admits but pretends not to, claiming military targets at dams, dikes, etc. And they followed this with a cutie:"The woman in this helmet is Jane. Fonda. Last week she made an appearance on Hanoi radio encouraging Ameerican troops to lefect to North Mietnam."