

JUL 24 1972

7/22/72

#16

Dear Js,

Was a setting and a thinkin about what to do when I missed what I'd had the radio on for, possible weekend developments in the bugging case at a time less reportorial manpower (not mcpiggery, Je!) is available and missed it. All that registered is the firing of an employee because he wouldn't answer FBI questions. I'll probably get in an rerun and surely will later.

This is when we were supposed to be leaving to visit old friends near our farm. But Lil told me she wasn't feeling good and would lie down. She did. But I'd timed my work. Hence the setting, thinkin. To decide what to do that I'd not planned. With 95° + it is not about to be the always-needed lawnmowing. The news item was aired as I was deciding between the book Larry sent me on drugs, making a list by publisher of Hunt's books on the slight chance Bob Woodward would follow it up, and a few comments on things I've put aside for you, in the 3rd-class envelope.

Much as I can understand that the Post regards itself as part of the upper layer of The Establishment, I can't understand their backing off on the bugging story. They have kept Bob Woodward on a series of major stories. They have other and competent reporters. Bob has a good local-area background for a younger reporter, having broken in on the rather better than average weekly Montgomery County Sentinel. But that prepared him for Mont. Cty. only of local stories. The two larger were one on Washington dope and a scandal in the county on the other side of DC, Prince George's, where Bremer is to be tried. He was pretty busy when I saw him yesterday. I waited about a half-hour while he completed a phone call he was one when I got there. I'd gone there for another reason, to see the Potomac mg. ed. who'd called me, between two other stops. Woodward was my source on the Bennett Key Biscayne home. Can you imagine a paper with the Post's pretensions and professed anti-Nixonism and agonizing over public probity sitting on this? So I decided to let the listing of Hunt's works wait for that is something I can do while TV news is on.

I suppose you learned it young, too, ~~But~~ From high-school days, when I made up the school paper, wrote late copy and edited what needed it in a composing room near seven old linotypes I have been able to exclude what I want whenever I want to think. So, I missed this item and I can heed TV or not while doing other things. Usually, including when I'm walking am's with the little transistor set, I am oblivious to what doesn't interest me.

Veritas: If you can find time to write for a copy of the large-six brochure, I'd appreciate it if you would because I'd like your own independent assessment of whether you think it possible that this thing is not <sup>necessarily</sup> complete isolated from other things that have interested us and your appraisal of the author. As a horror puece for your collection you'll also want it. Veritas encouraged me to hang onto it because he is running out. If they are really scarce, you might want to say you are a reporter who heard of it, without identifying AP.

I've enveloped several things I didn't take time to read this a.m. One is Karnow's ancient China-US history piece the essence of which I'd heard before. Another is today's Egypt reporting, a partial scanning of the first-page parts leading me to believe there was basis for my instant analysis prompted by the monolithic play of the spontaneous officialline. Where you see a JW on the clips (again, Je, not m c piggery) it is so there will be a red mark to let Lil know I want where I read paper first and to tell me as soon as I see it that I don't have to read it to see where to file if head doesn't tell. Sometimes it is a long time after clipping before I file, if the word can be used for what I really do.

No matter what the rank or lack of it of the fired employee, this is the kind of thing I've been expecting. There are many conflicts of interest yet to surface. The adm. can't take employee non-cooperation and the employees, unless really worried about the alternatives, can't afford to take responsibility for what they did for adm. (This reminds me of a precious bit by David Brinkley last night. He is frankly editorial now. He is labelled comment. He told a bobtailed Otepka story, saying he was fired for leaking while Ellsberg has been indicted for it; he got \$14,000- for seven years while doing nothing, the got promoted by Nixon to the SACB where his salary is over \$35,000 and where he can do nothing because they have nothing to do, and now, having reached an age I forget, less than mine, having spent 7 years doing nothing, for which he got something like \$175,000, he will not spend the rest of his life doing nothing ~~x~~ in retirement at about \$14,000 a year.)

If there is a repeat of the item, I may have some comment on the possibilities.

As I think a careful reading of my today's to Howard may suggest, those who sought to exploit him have cut him out and off. For his sake, I do hope so. But I didn't want to say it or suggest it too strongly because it might brusie his ego, too much after the abuse to which he has been subjected more directly. I think enough of what I was answering will be

clear enough to you. (Just heard forecast of 100+° tomorrow. Poor Lil! When she was younger and prickly heat drove me crazy, she was immune to heat. Now she can't take it at all. That and nerves and the reaction of/on her hiatal hernia are all that is now troubling her.

Famine-in-the-midst-of-plenty aside. My small office is now air conditioned. That means I can't work in it when the air conditioning is on. Not without dressing like in winter. So, I've moved the mill into the living room. The largest air conditioner, here when we bought because they couldn't sell without leaving hole in wall, is in the pair of rooms made one by the opening of an accordion divider that is Lil's office. Going toward my office from there is our large kitchen, designed originally as a combo with dinette. It has a smaller unit in its wall. Then there is a solid wall and my office is on the other side. Because of the openness of most of the house, which we like and enjoy, the kitchen unit blows directly on where we sit in the living room. Not good when we sit there. This is also our noisiest unit, and Lil and noise don't compat. So, what I generally do is start the largest and one or both of the units as soon as there is any need, turn the furnace air circulator on, and when it is cool enough reduce to the smallest number of units that will make for comfort, mostly needing only the largest unit. (There has just been a news item that the heat is literally breaking up the roads, including the major arterial and superhighways and beltways. A list of the more serious hazards was broadcast and repeated. I suppose expansion has buckled concrete, which is reinforced, unlike blacktop, which would chunk up.) Well, my office has a diagonal doorway not positioned to the blast from the smallest air conditioner there can blow into the living room, as I'd prefer, and the weird design of the heating system give it to inlets when it bitter weather one is enough, and no air returns to such cold air into the circulation. So, while quite a bit does come out, more than enough remains and it blows directly on where I sit in working on xerox-edition masters, less than three feet from that chair. Thus, unless I dress to where I'd be less comfortable anywhere else in the house, I can't stay in my office long. That is the newest machine we have. My mother gave it to me two years ago when she sold her home and moved into an apt. I guess it is 6-7 years old only.

Post's all-news radio station, which usually repeats major news at least once each half hour, hasn't repeated bugging firing and second half-hour almost over. Not given in half-hourly encapsulation, either. Maybe CBS net may have it on hour. Here is where Bob Kutner may feed Pacifica what reporters give him that their papers don't use. Sure that is the setup, which doesn't mean he doesn't do well on his own.

One advantage of using the living room to work is if I look up, through 25 linear feet of six-foot-high windows I see a wall of green so dense the pond, but 100 feet away, is invisible. Each time there is a different flash of color as a different bird or group flies past. Love it! Even in this kind of miserable weather we never close the insulating drapes.

As I look back on the working of the Department of Disinformation in The Watergate Caper, it has been close to textbook, close to perfect. This means not that it was a really good job but that it accurately anticipated how much collaboration it could expect from the press. The press, on its part, has given the impression of good journalism and telling-all but it has been sitting on much, some of which only I've reported. Aside: while I was waiting for Woodward Dick Harwood, who picked a fight with me when the Post doublecrossed under Bradlee's direction in May 1966 (and used Harwood vice Kurzman, then fared with a year's pay), came out of his office. The Post has completed a large new wing. Its editorial offices are like business offices. Even clean and neat. Brightly the ashtrays are washed and placed back on the desks upside down. Wall-to-wall color, including grugs. Bright, too. Good light. None of the typical, traditional grubby newsroom look and air. The new, large newsroom is entirely open, a glass wall on the east or 15th St side letting in daylight. On the inside, there is this wall of private offices, what divides them from the newsroom being floor-to-ceiling glass. Dick saw me and walked all across that large newsroom to shake hands and say hello, which was a surprise. We chatted briefly and I asked him if he'd ever seen Hunt. His reply was that he is sure he must, that the name sounded familiar, but he can't conjure up a face. Dick was, as I remember, an investigative-reporter on a major paper, I think Chicago, before the Post hired him away. He is now national editor.

Wonder if today's announcement Agnew to be on ticket made today to help downplay firing.

CBS net radio news 5 p.m. identified fired man as lawyer with committee for re-election His Dirtiness. Sounded like E. Clark Liddy. New name. Perhaps this is Mr. X, perhaps fall guy taking rap.

Lil got up about a half-hour ago. I've been using you and this as an excuse to delay taking her out not only because as the day lengthens the sun lowers and weakens but because the old farmer in the former cityman tells me a weather change impends and I'd rather take her when it is not sunny or breeze is blowing, which will make air cooler in car. So, she is now checking in DC area phone books. I've been negligent in not getting new ones for two years, so this is 1969-70. Closest is LC. Libby, in Arlington, Va part that was to have been DC until the old patriots got chinchy.

Here I replaced weak batter and returned to inde all-news, with Lil having the contrived function of monitoring because I can hear the beginning of electrical interference (the X3CWW of depression amateur days surfacing) betokening a closing thunderstorm. And the sun is ~~is~~ weakening. I'll now delay long ~~enough~~ enough for a rhetorical question: do you understand the significance of the firing of a Republican committee lawyer for not talking to the FBI on this? It can't be pretended to be detached from the official campaign any more. Now the explanation, ~~the~~ partial explanation, of the expensive legal talent, the willingness of McCord to use RNC communications equipment for unlicensed purposes-indeed, at all, is, ~~more~~ obvious if incomplete still.

Well, we'll see. As much as we are allowed and as much as we can visualize past that. Guess I can't postpone any longer, except for the time it will take Lil to dress. I'll change shorts and put on sandals and the thinnest shirt I can find and I'm ready. I'm nature boy in hot weather!

This is the kind of thing that can be amplified a bit by corrupt-practises filings, but that will come later, too late.

FYI: Unless it turns out that this guy lives within a quarter of a mile of the Watergate, it means he is still not "Mr. X", he was up and running at 2:30 a.m., or Caddy perjured before the grand jury. My hunch is that there are more who figure in this mess.

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7/23 Press coverage, bugging. Listened to the UOI-oriented inde all-news for about 1 1/2 hrs, with 20-30 mins out for shopping stop going to dinner party and 30 mins on way home. No mention. Today's Post has page one story identifying lawyer as former committee-re-election lawyer as G. Gordon Liddy, former FBI man, former Hunt White-House associate, little more except Republican political past as almost successful opponent Hamilton Fish, Duchess Cty, N.W. Say he was in NYC practice law but no mention firm. Probably be doing memo later.

Best, HW

