

5/14/72- Whalen/McTerry/ Nixon's "plan" to end the war.

MAY 17 1972

The mystery is now solved, for I did not send this to you but the other way around. I've not yet seen the longer Sunday piece of last week. But from reading this I can confirm that it is typical of Whalen's thinking. He is sharp but the creature of his conservative belief (political and religious), thus is blinded to what is inconsistent with what he wants to be and his want becomes a conceived reality when it can't be. I have seen it before, seen where he was sharp enough to pick up tantalizing items of real value, he was incapable of extracting their very obvious meaning. (I helped him with the SEP assassination piece- yea, saved him when Mike Mooney finally sent him to me, and we have remained friendly if not close over the years despite his dirtiness to me in it -ordered because of the honesty of his admission of it and his plaintive plea that I not do to him what I did to Fletcher Knebel. There was time his kids called me "uncle".)

Even without his pro-war current career in the thin-tank with all the generals, and that preceeds his SEP piece, he would have thought this nonsense and considered it real brilliance. "I'll be had to do is forget all realpolitik and in this specific case, specific history, the real origins of the present mess. That was the first Geneva accord. And that came to pass because we persuaded the Russians to save the white face in the east. We were not signatories, agreed to abide by it, and immediately began violating it, ending in open intrusions, first by imposing Diem and then by preventing elections (Ike honestly said later that we'd have lost them)."

With this sample of US dependability and the burn of the paw where the chestnuts were pulled for us, could any rational man have expected that in 1968 the Russians would again risk the coals, hot as they are, hotter as they can get? Dick could and apparently did, to me a sample of the intellectual castration of such political and other belief. He and his are also capable of harsh judgement of the Russians if they'd refuse, and would condemn them for not seeing their one nose-ends, translating the whole skulduggery into a pro-Russian gesture by us.

However, what this sorry fails to note is that with such a plan, after three years ~~Nixon~~ L.B. Nixonhower, the Dulles of the all, did not make the initial move. He could have tried Dick's plan (if, indeed, it was his personally, as I can believe it was) the day he took office. With success, it could have made him a hero, but could not see or did not dare. Now it is too late, and there is nothing short of the possible, if inconceivable, that can salvage him. We can "save" VN by wiping it out, but less than that can't turn the tide of history. That can merely obliterate it. As a matter of academic interest only, I'll be interested if there is any press comment on the delay, the timing. For the nonce, I'd expect none, not in the establishment press. With a book, I'd expect more on this. Dick's publisher used to be New World Library (Times-Mirror). He also told me they are as crooked as the rest and that even when they made a pot on his The Founding Father, the expose of Joe Kennedy, they cheated him extensively. HW