

13 September 1972

Dear Harold:

Herewith a whole grab-bag full of stuff, much of it watergate. We know we're probably over-clipping for you on this, but as you well know very often there'll be a line or a sentence that doesn't appear elsewhere, in which case the context is all-important. In most cases that are not readily apparent as self-explanatory, you'll find small notes attached by the STM.

Martha reappeared today, and we assume it was for purposes of detracting attention from the report of the Senate Banking Committee. We are sensitive, aren't we ?

Let me dispose of a few things brought up by your 5 and 6.

In a note to someone named Dick dated 8.31.72 you mention a story about an Austrian named Selye in Montreal by AP regarding tension and how to deal with it. Somehow I missed this, and believe his doctrine of getting busy must be to deal with the frustration factor that often is among the causes of tension. No argument there, as frustration causes much the same physical response (leading to ulcers, etc) that does fear and uncertainty.

In your note to Howard dated 9.2.72 about Wecht, you cite the AP story used in the SF Examiner-Chronicle for Sunday, Aug. 27, and quote him as saying Wecht "did not say if he thought the object was a bullet." I'm inclined to think this was thrown in by the AP writer who was doing the story, as a way of pointing out that an obvious omission, and possibly also the apparent fact that Wecht may not have been asked whether he thought it was a bullet.

In the same note you also quote Wecht as saying that "the X-rays probed that the front and rear wounds in the slain president were caused by the bullet whichn passed through Kennedy's body and then struck Connally." As we read this story, this statement was attributed to Lattimer, not Wecht.

While we're on Wecht, your note of 9/4 says you'll holding a tape of Wecht's statements for us if we want it. Thanks, we don't. But I'd suggest that you keep it, rather than erase it.

We come now to your memo on the Watergate caper dated 9/3/72, and about halfway down you mention that the Republic National Bank, used by Barker, is "run by Cubans," according to the CBS program, Campaign 72 (which we appreciated very much hearing, and are returning your tape in a different shipment). Re banks, U.S. News and World Report for Oct. 11, 1971, in a piece on Rebozo, says the postwar housing boom made him wealthy, and "Today, Mr. Rebozo owns apartments and land around Miami and on several Florida keys. He also owns a title insurance firm, is chairman and president of the Key Biscayne State Bank, and has interests in a shopping center and self-service laundries." We shall continue to keep a sharp eye out for the banking habits of El Bosom.

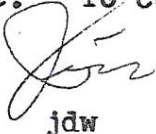
Your memos of 9/6 on the coverage from Munich on the Olympic assassinations. We just happened to hear that CBS radio reporter (his name sounded like Maresh) who did such a fine job of saying how the Germans lied when they said all the hostages were safe when they had to know they were not and probably knew they were dead. This guy went on and on. It was about 3 a.m. here, and the network just kept feeding him on and on, and the local station at that hour was apparently glad enough to have something besides the usual fare.

The idea of blaming this on Maoism is of course ridiculous. I cannot recall that Mao ever has advocated terrorism, even indirectly, although at times he has had to put up with it, usually in areas out of his control at the time. The whole idea is quite foreign to the pragmatic tactics he advocates, simply because they work, whereas extreme measures like terrorism do not, or become counterproductive. Even more important, the concept of such tactics is entirely foreign to the kind of traditional Chinese approach toward such things which Mao represents and always has.

To me there is something peculiarly German in the way the people at Munich lied under pressure when they knew they were lying. I can't recall specific instances, but this pattern seems somehow familiar from the days when I was following German politics fairly closely, during the rise of Hitler. And it's not just a Nazi phenomenon, but perhaps something more closely akin to the Gotterdammerung syndrome. The Germans seem at times to have an uncontrollable impulse to hasten their own doom.

In a recent third class mailing you included a column by Clayton Fritchey pointing out that McGovern not only has the establishment press ~~wikzkizxhxzkazazkzokzxfzkaxwzkizgxnu~~ against him, he has a lot of the working newsmen against him too. I agree with him, but not because, as he says, "even run-of-mine reporters are getting \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year." Some are, and I would agree that probably most of them are not favorable to McGovern. However, the crunch comes with those making less than that, and again I probably would agree that most of these are also unfavorable to McGovern. But this is because they think they see a chance of acquiring a vested interest in the establishment, not because they already have it, as Fritchey seems to think. In the days of Roosevelt this would not have been such an influential factor, and the lower-paid newsmen would have been New Dealers -- and were -- and to hell with what management might think. Today it's different, in that most newsmen every day see their papers ignore important stories, give enormous play to unimportant stories, and they know instinctively if not consciously that there is little future in bucking that tide. The journalist doing his job, his real job, is the exception rather than the rule, and often when it is done right it's for the wrong reason, and everyone knows this whether he will admit it or not. This is all very sad, and adds up to suggesting that things are worse than Fritchey makes them out to be.

We're a bit pressed for time, so I'll knock this off for the nonce. To coin a phrase, keep those Watergate memos coming.



jdw