

x I didn't know if it would be of any interest to you, but in the event you'd like a sample of TV new
WG treatment when there were major developments, beginning night 4/17. I have CBS and NBC evening
and a.m. news to this a.m. and I'll soon tape the 8 a.m. Today (NBC) news, to finish the cassette.
Schorr interested me this a.m. He used a variant of my St. George figure and said what I've been
saying, that Nixon was going to make it appear that he had brought all to light. He will, largely,
pull Ervin's teeth, but only if Ervin has no real investigation, as distinguished from the mere
taking of testimony. His new stuff denies Ervin the involved witnesses. 5th Amendment. Meanwhile, the
potential of the civil suits is not approached. HW 4/19/73

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Jim, recent Watergate developments lead me to believe that my opinion on attempting to
amend the FOI law may not be correct. I continue to have more concern for changes for the
worse than I have hope for improvements. And much would depend on when the proposals would
be considered. If delayed until after WG is no longer hot, the influence for greater
disclosure from it could be much reduced. Aside from WG and a few headline-makers, there
has been nothing that I think will cause determination not to retreat from the present
law. I don't believe these events will cause enough determination and on the part of the
right people. On the other hand, I would anticipate that those with much to lose from any
proposal for greater disclosure and can lose much from decent enforcement of the existing
law will be determined and will be able to reach influential people. HW 4/19/73