

8/2/73

AUG 8 1973

Dear Jim,

I won't begin by telling you how swell it was of you to take the time to transcribe precisely the Baldwin testimony I wanted. You know it is important to me and that I appreciate it. I tread that and your letter of the 29th (not the enclosed clips yet) as soon as I got the mail after the Helms recess. (Outrageous, but ample confirmation of what I'd already begun to write about Baker, Thompson and Gurney.)

It is conforming to know that Baldwin's testimony is not another thing I memory-holed through carelessness and pressure. I'm getting out of bed by 5 a.m. and working until usually 11 or later, so I'm also tired and more confused. I'm not as young as I was when I dashed WW off. Mostly I decided, as I did 2:55 a.m. today, to go back to bed.

The confusion here is tremendous.

I had to lay aside what I was writing of Counterattack to have some preventive maintenance done of the car with 110,000 miles and there, armed with a portable and a pad, heard most of Helms. I hope to pick it up tonight after I get some grass cut if it doesn't rain and one of the kowers starts. Also the way it is.

TV: you'll have no trouble resisting temptation, not really. There is one other consideration you may want to keep in mind. Most of the drama is junk. Infrequently public TV has some good stuff. Consult the listings. Sometimes it also helps relax. The good stuff is BBC's.

This is an area closer to my youthful experience in radio. Recorders then unknown. By accident or someone's design, you seem to have selected on a very logical basis. You seem to have a portable. The best have to have more at the radio-frequency end, or more sensitivity, more pickup. If whoever installed and sold didn't discuss rotator, in a fringe area you will probably need it. You don't have snow, but the difference in foliage may ~~make~~ be enormous in the picture you get. We are past fringe in UHF. So, we not only have to turn the aerial, we also have to choose between stations, in Baltimore and Washington for the evening UHF versions. Without the rotator, we'd have useless pictures on both for long intervals in the 12 months. If you do not have an outside aerial, you should consider one, if it doesn't reduce the signal strength too much, with terminals wherever you might use. No real loss in signal strength if only one set. Combination clips, attached to set, connect fast. I have in mind the kitchen and the living room.

We sue a similar procedure with our DC NPR station, which has a good signal on the Craig, which is next to the TV, which has an alligator clip on the speaker terminals.

I wrote the foregoing before the p.m. hearings started. I suppose you know how Cushman's testimony made me feel. Because it is too hot to dare now, if my mowers will start, and close to suppertime, I continue. (poor Lil slept through all of Cushman. She got bitten by one of the bugs to which she reacts, took an anti-histamine, and couldn't stay awake for it!) She was sitting on the sofa pointed at the TV, but sound asleep.)

Counterattack: it was obvious, and the upcoming stiwarts, the Nazi Feld Marshals, required it. I made another hasty addendum, of which I made an extra copy for you, and since have hobbled away. Baker has his bare face hanging out now, Thompson, too. (I think Haldeman actually slipped and called him "Tommy", but I wasn't taping. No time now.) Because I am coming more and more to your Butterfield view, maybe GL wasn't all that tight, except from tension? In notes I hope I can find, I think the timing is close, no more than a day or so of interlude. This matter of the tapes is a monstrous diversion. Not that they can't be important. Pristine they are. His need is to delay and bog down. That they do. If you begin with the assumption of guilt, what difference does overkill proof make?

I read only the first page and the lead story, inc. jump, before the hearings began. Back to that. Many, many thanks!

Sincerely,

