

31 August 1973

Dear Harold:

Beginning with the issue of Aug. 22, we are trying to protect you vis a vis the NY Times until Howard returns from vacation and resumes doing it. What happens is that for some reason the Post Office has turned over a new leaf (well not quite; the Times for July 3 straggled in on Aug.. 28) and in general is delivering issues of the Times and WX Post pretty much daily and with the same issues in the same delivery. I read and clip the Post first, then do the Times, so it's easy to eliminate those Times stories which duplicate what you already will have seen in the Post. I'm trying to hold everything to a minimum for your sake, but now and then will include a column that seems important along with stories which the Post has missed or neglected.

Glad to let you have the Times transcript of GL's 22 August news conference at San Clemente. You referred to it as "his speech," but from the context of your 23 August request I have to assume you meant the news conference rather than his radio-tv address in Washington the Week before, (or the accompanying WH statement put out along with the address) or the later speech at NO to the VFW.

Thanks for offering to make copies of the documents regarding Mrs. Hunt. We'll pass for now, foreseeing no reason to need them. If we do, we'll ask. Thanks again.

In your letter of 19 August you refer to a Chronicle clip we sent you dated 8/8/73, Probe Urged of Anti-Nixon Violence. This indeed refers to the San Jose incident, and this certainly is the one in California you correctly recall as a contrived protest situation. This was obvious from the start, and we have a considerable file on it if you need further details. At the time State Sen. Alquist called for a grand jury investigation of the circumstantial indications that the anti-Nixon protest was contrived, but as I recall he got ~~now~~ nowhere. The Secret Service appeared the likeliest culprits, but one couldn't be sure. They made a grandstand play later of exhibiting the limousine with dents in it, supposedly from rocks. No one present remembered anything harder than a few eggs and wads of paper having been thrown, etc etc. My personal suspicion at this late date is that someone else did the actual contriving and inciting at the time, with the Secret Service for some reason stuck with the job of explaining how it all supposedly happened. The STM thinks there were other, similar incidents in Florida at about the same time, probably earlier, but this is the only one recall in California.

In the same note you ask whether I remember my source for the impression that Caswell was the Mexico City station chief for the CIA. I can't be absolutely sure, but it's a very firm impression that it was said rather casually by Walters, Helms or Cushman in the testimony of one of them, probably in that order of probability.

Do you sense, as we do, a concerted effort to follow up on GL's line that now it is time to leave Watergate to the courts and get on with the nation's business? Dole and other party spokesmen, even David Eisenhower, seem to be mouthing this non sequitur at every opportunity. Very discouraging, and we have a growing feeling that unless something turns up GL may get away with it, remain in office in spite of everything, playing on public indifference and boredom, and last out his term in spite of hell and high water. I suspect his determination to do this may be partly due to an inability to visualize anything else, but that doesn't make it any more palatable. Best, *John* jdw