

NOV 9 1973

Dear Jim,

11/8/73

Thanks for the candor of your 11/2, which came today. Except as generalities of undoubted validity, and I fear they can be applied to all of it, they are now of value only if I have a contract and have to edit. Lil has retyped past that point, finishing it Tuesday a.m. This actually is part of a part-length chapter broken up so it can make separate chapters. In fact, the part before the one she just finished.

I become unaware of these things as I get into the writing. In part I suppose it is because I write as I speak and I'm too used to speaking and in part because I believe that on subjects like this the writer owes the reader the obligation of explicitness. Not hiding beliefs, perhaps prejudices. These do not justify. I wonder if they are the cause. I do know that when I make a conscious effort to break up the long sentences I also run into trouble. I've been able to make a test of that lately, with those who never read anything else I wrote.

Because I have no doubt that you are correct and a change would make for more effective, more attractive writing, I'll try to make an effort to keep these suggestions in mind. The tendency toward prolixity is my character. I am sure that if I left some of the ideas out the total would be more comprehensible. Perhaps if I had a different history over the past eight years it might be different. It then would not have been ingrained that leaving a fairly complete record is the important thing.

I am sending a carbon to a friend at ~~tantam~~. This means a corrected copy, where Lil has picked up comma faults and other ~~grammatic~~ grammatical corrections and where it is worked into the context I intended. One of the worries I've had is what you have not seen, the opening explanations, sometimes fairly long, so that such technical topics and be comprehensible to the average reader. I do not know if they succeed. But each of the chapters of this nature begins that way, including the one on which I'm working, Nixon as a totalitarian.

With your usual sharpness you picked up what at this point I felt I had to leave unexplained and what to this moment I hesitate to try to explain, why the Ervins and the Dashes are whitewashing. I will have to address it. I'm not sure I know the answer yet. However, I believe the fact establishes the fact beyond questions. I have not been unaware of this. I have hoped it is not a serious problem at this juncture. It is my intention to attempt to explain in the Hunt part. What may interest you is that the average reporter is beginning to tumble to this. John Hanrahan, who did not raise the question when he was here Monday from about 4 until close to 9 did by phone yesterday. Before the weekend, if I did not include it in something I sent you, Barry Sussman was pretty explicit in saying the people had to lean on the Congress, which is yellow. What the papers do not and will not say - at least not as long as they get leaks and probably never except for a self-serving, too-late editorial comment - the reporters and editors have come to understand, less than fully.

This week has not been work productive. I have spent much time working with the press, I think with sufficient success. Jaworski's record is now public. I have seen no mention of it but a press conference is promised. I hope the boys are better prepared than they are for GL, for while there is nobody as expert in dirtiness, nobody as indifferent to falsities, Jaworski is a wily old bastard. He has a vulnerability Nixon doesn't, his self-concept and his local acceptability. Three of the reporters who could be at that press conferences are already adequately briefed. Art will brief his Washington man. I can only hope that if it does nothing else, it will inform his staff. I am able to stay one step ahead of those who seem to be listening, able to work faster than they can. In case after case, the ~~xxxx~~ stories that are consistent to begin with change to the consistent but false. Even with Hudkins. I have tapes of the accounts of what he told Kevin and then what he told Hanrahan. Each told me by phone. He even changed the number between the two calls! Hanrahan will see him tomorrow if Hanrahan is not out of the office, for Hudkins is going to DC. There is an amazing slip in his retelling to Kevin, something confirming what is in none of the reports but I picked up separately. Hanrahan detected his evasiveness. I did not tell either how to question on this to get uninfluenced results. And did. Ditto Jaworski's Houston

Houston partner Freeman and Debevoise in NYC, both told Kevin the same story and both telling later callers exactly the same altered story...

Not surprisingly Metromedia chickened out on the show on the assassination and Executive action about which they called me last evening. They'll now have schmalz on or for 11/22 and a cast actor on Executive Sction.

Interesting situation between National General and NBC, which refused to carry the ad for Executive Action. If I had a policy of reserving the right not to take some ads, I think I'd be tempted to take NBC's position. I have seen enough of the promos to want to be no part of it and enough in the worst possible taste. They have been mailed to the media, my source. Sickening commercialization in the worst possible taste. I suspect the suit vs NBC is commercialism, not principle. I heard of it last night from the DC p.r. man who is a friend. Small piece in today's Post.

Skipping back, one of the changes in the stories is to date the end of the CIA funding backward from 1970-1 to the time of the exposes.

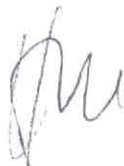
Watching GL last night I got the distinct impression he had just swallowed all the canaries. Indictuons he has flipped or has been increasing. I was not able to concentrate on him and the speech because other things that had just happened were on my mind. But the smiles were too many for the subject and at the wrong places for any subject. Without having read, bet Post doesn't say how much ~~fuel~~ he could save by stating where he was elected to stay.

Je's Haig transcript 10/28, "aig: the marked part amde me wonder when I heard it and this confirms the uncertainty. It means if taken literally that "aig denied meetings involing all, Chapin, Hunt, Kiddy and Strachan with GL all at the same time. It cannot mean there were no meetings betwen him and them individually, for how could he never have been with his appointments secretary. I don't recall if Strachan testified to any with him. (Vol 6 here today, through 7/25, Ehrlichman.) I believe there had to have been meetings wit Hunt, was surprised when Cox asked and said so in his press conference, and that this is basis of Hunt's obviously operative deal. I thought Hunt's digs at CIA rather obvious, too.

Thanks for the pretty bird stamps. I'll use this batch until Lil, who writes fewer ;ettters, uses hers.

Howard due tomorrow for weekend. Great kid.

Best and thanks,



So,ething doing at Berchtesgaden im Catoctins. Heavy copter traffic for four hours.