

Jim, earlier I made hasty reference to the possibility Agnew would be looking for allies without explaining something that has been on my mind for a while and clarified when without apparent reason Agnew fixed upon Petersen. Suppose you are Agnew and you know that Nixon is doing all this to you if in fact he didn't cook it up. Can you make accusations against Nixon, President, at any time, most of all when he is Watergated? No, so you pick the next best. Even when you know the Nixon staff is doing it you can't attack them. Meanwhile, you know that at some point there will be a court thing of some kind. On whom do you turn? The chief prosecutor, natch, who becomes more important under the Sheppard and Estes decisions, under the bar study on the press and a free trial, etc. Petersen's vulnerability in the overall has never been indicated. At the time he testified I typed up something on it. And he is a Democratic appointee. Also a hack, which makes him even more convenient-and expendable. It seems likely that the basis for Agnew's charges against him may have been laid by Agnew's own lawyers. It is all pretty Byzantine, but can it be otherwise the our Grand Caliph? On TV I'd say he shows signs of having lost much weight and his face has lost much expressiveness. Looks dull and thin to me. Also natch. He's in quite a spot. He can't be innocent, he can't win, his problem is how and what more he loses. It is not even to whom any more, for that is immaterial. It is not each for a Veep to be a Dean. If he doesn't overplay it he may wind up with considerable public sympathy. For this he needs help because he can't do or be connected with what has to be done to save him. I don't think he can pull it. But he is making the right tey on Petersen. He has only one Gold and that is not enough. The Dems can't help him. Caliph is the master of the making of eunuchs. HW 10/1/73