

WATERGATE THEORY & CONJECTURE

[A COMPENDIUM]

BIG BRIBE THEORY: The only explanation for the disproportion between the cover-up and the third-rate burglary is that RN was concealing—and still conceals—an even more brazen and corrupt act than any reported. RN's professed fear that LBJ bugged his '68 contacts with Dragon Lady Claire Chennault is a clue to the possibility that a big "gift" to RN by South Vietnamese diehards to encourage him to continue the war is the real "White House horror." (Renata Adler)

BIG CABAL THEORY: During "vacations" in South Florida in the 1940s and 1950s, RN became part of nexus of gamblers, gangsters, and Cuban casino interests that included Meyer Lansky, Howard Hughes, Bebe Rebozo, and the CIA. Watergate was fallout of falling out among these factions in aftermath of JFK and Castro assassination plots. (Howard Kohn)

BIG DEAL ON ROMAINE STREET THEORY: RN was obsessed by fear that defeated Hughes deputy Robert Maheu would feed damaging info about the Hughes loan and the secret Rebozo money channel to RN enemies such as Larry O'Brien. The damaging Hughes/Maheu documents which RN feared were stored in O'Brien's Watergate office or Hank Greenspun's Las Vegas safe were actually stashed in Hughes's old Romaine Street headquarters in L.A. Two months before RN resigned, burglars broke into the Romaine Street place. They stole a huge treasury of handwritten Hughes memos which has reportedly ended up in the hands of investigative reporter Michael Drosnin whose forthcoming book will reveal the material RN feared most. (Published reports)

CIA VENGEANCE THEORY: From the beginning of his first term RN had been pestering CIA Director Richard Helms to deliver the dirt implicating JFK in Castro assassinations. Helms held out, threatening to expose RN's own role in Eisenhower

planning for related plots. By the time RN fired Helms in 1973, the agency had already engineered his downfall by using its plants to expose "White House horrors" and sowing confusion with false blackmail demands. (Ehrlichman, Halde- man, Colson, RN, and others)

COLORED SHIRTS AT THE FBI THEORY: Rebellious deputies at FBI headquarters, angry at RN appointee Pat Gray for liberalizing Hoover's white-shirts-only formality, leaked Watergate details to the press to show RN Gray couldn't control the Bureau, hoping thereby to get Gray fired and replaced by a no-colored-shirt traditionalist. (Edward Jay Epstein)

GRASSY KNOLL CONNECTION THEORY: Howard Hunt and Frank Sturgis were the "mystery tramps" photographed being arrested near the grassy knoll a few minutes after JFK was shot. (A. J. Weberman)

JAMES McCORD DOUBLE AGENT THEORY: The break-in and bugging were so thoroughly bungled it had to be deliberate. CIA loyalist McCord must have been acting under Company instructions to sabotage RN's intelligence operation and later, in post-arrest communications, kept the Company apprised of the cover-up. (Jim Hougan, Frank Sturgis)

OCCULT CURSE THEORY: Gordon Liddy won his spurs as law-and-order toughie by spying on and raiding Timothy Leary's Millbrook, N.Y., commune. Watergate is RN's punishment for cosmic bad karma incurred by bringing Liddy into the White House. (Timothy Leary)

REVENGE OF HO CHI MINH THEORY: Almost all the "White House horrors" can be traced to secret conduct of the war and secret persecution of war protestors such as Ellsberg. Immorality of the war led to immoral domestic actions exposed and punished by Watergate. (Tom Hayden)

SELF-PARDON THEORY: RN forced

Ford's hand on the pardon by threatening to cause constitutional chaos with self-pardon power. On August 1, 1974, one week before resignation, Fred Buzhardt tells Haig (see *The Final Days*) that he's researched the question and the President has the power to pardon himself. RN writes out pardon and puts it in sealed envelope, then tells Haig if he gets guarantee of pardon from Ford he'll forget about self-pardon, resign, and go quietly. Otherwise, even if he's out of office, he'll produce envelope, revealing that while still President he pardoned himself *and everyone else in the Watergate case*. Checkmate. Ford accepts, agrees never to discuss the negotiation. (R. R.)

THE CAIN AND ABEL THEORY: Something more than a big bribe or conventional corruption is necessary to explain RN's guilt-ridden response to almost everything—including things of which he's not guilty. A shocking and disturbing suggestion about the "mysterious death" of RN's younger brother Arthur by RN biographer Fawn Brodie is her effort to explain it all. Brodie cites RN's changing recollections of the cause of young Arthur's death (when RN was just a lad). In one version, Arthur was struck by a rock "thrown by another boy," according to RN. Could the "other boy" be RN? Only evidence Brodie offers to support this are characteristic RN denials ("I am confident that if the rock throwing story is in fact true, it did not produce a fatal concussion and it had nothing to do with Arthur's death which was from tubercular meningitis," an RN spokesman told Brodie after consulting with RN). In addition, Brodie cites RN description of the devious nature of the Communist mind in *Six Crises*: "If we accuse X of having killed his mother, two brothers, and five friends, X's friends would shout back, 'That's a lie! X only wounded one brother.' The counterattack would be on, with attention diverted from the five friends and the other brother X had indeed, actually killed." (Haldeman's notes on what was said during the 18-minute gap cite RN calling for a "p.r. counterattack" and demanding "diversion." Could the gap contain the smoking gun on the Arthur case?)

The Associated Press, June 17, 1982

CIA Files Sought on Ties With Student Association

By MATT YANCEY,

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

The U.S. Student Association asked a federal court Thursday to force the CIA to release files on the spy agency's covert relationship with the student group from 1947 through 1967.

In a lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court here, the organization formerly known as the U.S. National Student Association said the CIA had not complied with a Freedom of Information Act request for the files that first was

submitted in 1977.

The student group and the CIA severed their relationship in August 1967 after it was disclosed in a magazine article. As part of that agreement, the spy agency gave the association the CIA-owned building in Washington that was housing the group's headquarters at the time.

Kate Hall, a CIA spokeswoman, said the agency had not been served with the suit and did not have any information about it. But she said the CIA has not rejected the association's request for the files.

"There's been a long negotiating process," Miss Hall said. "Their request is in queue, waiting its turn to be serviced."

David L. Sobel, the student association's attorney, accused the agency of dragging its feet on the 4 1/2-year-old request, saying the CIA has yet to release any material concerning the 20-year relationship between the two groups.

Sobel, however, noted that a 1967 memo from former CIA Director Richard Helms to Walt Rostow, then a White House aide, on the student organization's severed ties with the agency and its activities was released as part of a civil suit against Helms in 1977.