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DATE 04/24/73//114

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 SUBJECT CATEGORY: OUTGOING

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

MESSAGE:
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 FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 021
 TO JON HOWE FOR MR. KISSINGER
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DIGEST OF RECENT NEWS COMMENT
 MARCH 19, 1973

INDOCHINA-RELATED

EVANS-NOVAK SAY "DESPITE CAUTION AT STATE, RN IS PREPARING SECRET ORDERS" FOR 7TH FLEET CARRIERS TO RETURN TO NVN WATERS "AS A HARD WARNING TO HANOI TO STOP INFILTRATION." STATE WORRIES THAT THREAT BEFORE ALL POWS ARE BACK RISKS REPRISALS, BUT DOD BELIEVES BOMBING RETALIATION BEFORE THEN " WOULD BE EFFECTIVE IN DEMONSTRATING" RN'S DETERMINATION. ON AGRONSKY SHOW, EVANS SAID A "HARSH" RN RESPONSE NOW IS VERY POSSIBLE GIVEN THE "DECENT INTERVAL" THESIS BUT IN 18 MONTHS, IF SVN CAN'T HANDLE THINGS, IT'LL BE A DIFFERENT STORY.

NY NEWS SAYS US HAS "NO CAUSE TO UNDERESTIMATE RN'S DETERMINATION AND WILLINGNESS TO ACT. LET'S HOPE NVN HAS LEARNED THAT LESSON BY NOW, TOO."...AND GREENE IN NEWS SAYS APPARENTLY COMMUNISTS AGREE THEY DON'T HAVE A CHANCE IN ANY EARLY ELECTION TO DUMP THIEU, "FOR THEY ARE STALLING," THUS, "THE OPEN THREAT OF RENEWED NVN MILITARY ATTACKS TAKES ON MORE OMINOUS PROPORTIONS AND DEEPENS CONCERN OF ADMIN. ABOUT NVN'S BOLD DEFIANCE." NVN "MUST HAVE BEEN OUT OF THEIR MINDS TO PILE UP ALL THAT STUFF IN SVN WHERE IT CAN BE SEEN OR COUNTED," GREENE SAYS NOTING ALLIED PLANES ARE "ONLY MINUTES FLYING TIME FROM THE COMMUNIST DUMPS." AND GREENE DOESN'T THINK RN MADE ANY "IDLE THREATS" IN HIS WARNINGS.

RESTON, WHO A WEEK AGO WAS HARSHLY CRITICAL OF NVA INFILTRATION, NOW SAYS IT DOESN'T GIVE HANOI ANY GREAT ADVANTAGE AND IS A SOURCE OF WONDER AS TO WHY IT'S INFILTRATING IN SUCH RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBERS AT ALL. AS FOR RN'S IMPLICIT WARNING OF BOMBING, RESTON FINDS IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY TIL ALL THE POWS AND GIS ARE BACK AND AFTER THAT-IT'D BE CLEARLY ILLEGAL. AID TO SAIGON CAN BE STEPPED UP TO COUNTER NVN VIOLATIONS, BUT RESTON SAYS THE RAIDS CAN'T BE DONE W/OUT HILL APPROVAL.

POST DOESN'T THINK ANY NEED FOR RN AND "HIS MORE ANXIOUS VN SUPPORTERS TO PANIC" ABOUT VIOLATIONS BECAUSE CHEATING WAS

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BOUND TO OCCUR, US SHOULD NOT BE INDIFFERENT, BUT BOMBING OR OTHER SUCH PRESSURE WON'T CHANGE NVN'S CHARACTER OR PURPOSE, SAYS POST WHICH SAYS US MUST RECOGNIZE THE LIMITS ON US POWER TO CONTROL VN EVENTS.

APPLE OF TIME'S SAYS SR, WH OFFICIALS PRIVATELY BELIEVE RN "WILL THINK LONG AND HARD" ABOUT RESUMING BOMBING EVEN AFTER POWS AND GIS ARE BACK, ONE NOTED IT WOULD BE "KIND OF AN ADMISSION THE PEACE EFFORT HAD FAILED" AND IT WOULD "ALMOST SURELY CREATE MORE POWS, ..POLITICALLY UNPALATABLE AT BEST," APPLE ALSO NOTES THAT "WHEN RN WAS BRANDISHING THE STICK OF BOMBING," US REPS WERE IN PARIS "PROFFEREING THE CARROT OF ECONOMIC AID" TO NVN.

ON AGRONSKY SHOW, NOYES, JUST BACK FROM VN, TERMED INFILTRATION "QUITE SIGNIFICANT" BUT ADDED NVN INTENTIONS AREN'T KNOWN AND THERE'S REAL DOUBT WHETHER NVN WOULD RENEW OFFENSIVE ANY TIME SOON. HE WOULD "DOWNGRADE" SERIOUSNESS OF THREAT, THO SUBVERSION AND PROPOGANDA CONTINUES, HE CALLED RN'S WARNING "SOMETHING NVN TAKES VERY SERIOUSLY" BUT SAYS NOTHING WILL HAPPEN TILL THE 60 DAYS ARE UP AND HE FEELS IT'D BE "VERY DIFFICULT" FOR US TO RENEW BOMBING, NOYES ALSO REPORTED "MINIMAL" DANGER OF RENEWAL OF ALL-OUT WAR.

AP ANALYSIS OF "USSR AND NVN-OPPORTUNITIES AND DANGERS" LEADS: "THERE MUST HAVE BEEN AN INTERESTED RESPONSE IN USSR TO RN'S POINTED REFERENCE TO 'OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES' IN HIS WARNING ABOUT NVN CF VIOLATIONS." USSR MIGHT SUFFER "REPERCUSSIONS" FROM RESUMED BOMBING AS SEVERE AS THOSE ADMIN. WOULD PRESUMABLY SUFFER, US PRESUMES USSR HAS INFLUENCE IN NVN AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF US-USSR TRADE IS SOMETHING BADLY SOUGHT BY USSR TO ACHIEVE DOMESTIC PROSPERITY, AP SAYS RENEWED VN TENSIONS WOULD DAMAGE THOSE PROSPECTS AND ANY BREAKDOWN OF CF " COULD DEFER FOR A LONG TIME THE IMPROVEMENT IN US-USSR RELATIONS THAT USSR SEEMS TO WANT SO BADLY," PERHAPS ADMIN. WARNING TO "OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES MEANT IT'S ALL UP TO USSR."

STATING MOST, INCLUDING RN, WOULD AGREE US SHOULDN'T HAVE BECOME INVOLVED IN VN, SUN EDIT ADDS PERHAPS THE THING TO SAY IS "NOTHING OF THAT SORT MUST HAPPEN AGAIN," US INTERVENTION, "AT ALL ITS COST IN LIVES, TREASURE AND NATL. AGONY, HAS SETTLED NO ISSUE OF SUBSTANCE IN INDOCHINA,".. BUCKLEY SAYS ELLSBERG TRIAL IS "COURT THEATER," A "THEATRICAL ARRANGEMENT" OF '60S' EVENTS IN A WAY "AS TO RENDER NOT ONLY THE ACT OF ELLSBERG IRREPROACHABLE BUT IN SOME WAY HARMONIOUS W/THE CRYING NEED OF THE DAY--THE SPREAD OF INFO ABOUT A WAR WE WERE FIGHTING WHICH US INTELLECTUALS ALMOST TO A MAN DIDN'T WANT TO FIGHT." THE PRESS ALSO SEEMS TO WANT IT BOTH WAYS; THE MATERIAL WAS INSIGNIFICANT TO ENEMY BUT SIGNIFICANT ENOUGH TO PUBLIC TO TRANSCEND JUSTICE'S OBJECTION, NOTING GEN. TAYLOR SAID CENSORSHIP SHOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSED DURING NV, BUCKLEY

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SAYS WHETHER ELLSBERG IS CONVICTED OR NOT IS "OF MERELY PERSONAL AND RETUCULATIVE INTEREST, BUT WE HAVE LEARNED, AS TAYLOR SUGGESTS, HOW NOT TO FIGHT A WAR."

DALLAS NEWS SAYS WORLD PRAISE FOR RN RE: C-F IS "QUITE A CHANGE FROM THE HARSH CRITICISM OF RECENT YEARS AND THE INTERN'T'L. SCREAMING THAT GREETED THE FINAL BOMBING THAT LED TO PEACE." RN MUST SMILE "GRIMLY" AT THIS CHANGE IN TONE W/POMPI'S THANKS BEING ESPECIALLY GRATIFYING. THE WORLD ADMIRES TENACITY AND LIKES A WINNER, SAYS EDIT, AND RN'S "UNWAVERING PERSISTENCE" RE PEACE W/HONOR "HAS GREATLY ENHANCED US IMAGE AS A PURPOSEFUL PRINCIPLED POWER. THE RESPECT DIVIDEND IS STARTING TO COME IN." THO HE WOULD HAVE BEEN PRAISED EVEN FOR CUTTING AND RUNNING, "IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE NOTE OF RESPECT SO AUDIBLE IN CURRENT CONGRATS WOULD HAVE BEEN HEARD," SAYS DALLAS NEWS. BIG POWERS BEATEN BY LITTLE POWERS DON'T DESERVE RESPECT.

OTHER FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NOTING MANY SAW IN VN "THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF US SUPREMACY IN INTERNAT'L. AFFAIRS," KRAFT SAYS THAT TO THY CONTRARY: "W/VN ALBATROSS FINALLY BEING LIFTED, US POWER IS MORE THAN EVEN DOMINANT FORCE IN THE WORLD."

KRAFT THINKS EVERYONE SHOULD "STEP BACK" AND LET MFN ISSUE "COOL." IF ADMIN. FORCES A FIGHT ON JACKSON AMENDMENT, IT "WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY LOSE AND IN THE PROCESS SOME VERY HURT FEELINGS WOULD BE FURTHER AGGRAVATED." HE THINKS MFN SHOULD BE TREATED SEPARATELY FROM GENERAL TRADE BILL SO TIME CAN BE GAINED TO LET "TEMPERS COOL." USSR WOULD ALSO HAVE TIME TO TAKE STOCK AND "WAYS COULD BE WORKED OUT" TO PROMOTE TRADE AGREEMENT "WHICH VERY FEW SENSIBLE PEOPLE OPPOSE ON THE MERITS."

SUN'S PARKS REPORTS TO NON-COMMUNIST DIPLOMATS AT CESC, "THE DELIVERATIVE PACE IS READ HOPEFULLY AS EVIDENCE THE FULL CONFERENCE WILL NOT BECOME THE USSR-LED STAMPEDE MOSCOW ORIGINALLY INTENDED." WESTERN DIPLOMATS ADMIT THEY USED SLOW PACE "TO EXAMINE AND SOFTEN MOSCOW'S PROPOSALS," BUT ONE SAID, "WE'RE MOVING FASTER NOW"-- FROM A SNAIL'S PACE TO THAT OF TURTLES.

NOTING US-USSR ARMS RACE "SEEMS TO ROLL ON W/A MOMENTUM ALL ITS OWN W/OUT ANY REGARD TO OTHER RELATIONS," YOST SAYS AS LONG AS NEITHER IS WILLING TO BE "2ND STRONGEST" AND THE MILITARY EXAGGERATES THE OTHER'S CAPABILITIES, THE RACE WILL NEVER STOP. A FURTHER "HANGUP" IS TENDENCY OF EACH SIDE TO DEVELOP NEW SYSTEMS AS "BARGAINING CHIPS." NOTING VP HAS SPOKE AGAINST THOSE WHO "DISASTROUSLY TAMPER W/NAT'L. SECURITY," YOST SUGGESTS THOSE WHO ARE TAMPERING IN REAL SENSE "ARE NOT THOSE WHO BELIEVE WE COULD SAFELY REDUCE BILLIONS SPENT" ON INCREASED NUCLEAR DETERRENCE," BUT THOSE WHO ARE REDUCING FUNDS NEEDED TO MAKE CITIES AND SUBURBS SAFE, HEALTHY AND CIVILIZED."

SUN REPORTS HUGH SCOTT "MUST HAVE FELT A SLIGHT TWINGE OF ENVY"

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RE: BRUCE APPOINTMENT, BECAUSE " UNKNOWN TO MOST ON HILL, SCOTT WOULD LIKE TO CAP OFF PUBLIC CAREER AS ENVOY TO A NATION HE HAS STUDIED AND KNOWS THRU ITS ART." WINTERS ADDS SINCE SCOTT DOESN'T PUBLICLY TALK ABOUT THIS, "IT IS NOT CERTAIN THE WH EVEN KNOWS OF SCOTT'S AMBITION." BUT, IT'S LIKELY SCOTT WOULD TURN DOWN SUCH AN APPOINTMENT AS LONG AS SHAPP IS GOVERNOR.
 ADMIN-RELATED

HERBERS IN TIMES SAYS EXEC. PRIVILEGE ISSUE IS ARISING REPEATEDLY BECAUSE AN "ACTIVE AND AGGRESSIVE RN HAS ACCELERATED THE TREND TOWARD CENTERING GREAT DECISIONS OF GOVT. IN WH." NOTING RN AND SUPPORTERS CONTEND PRIVILEGE HAS BEEN USED W/RESTRAINT, HERBERS ADDS CRITICS SAY "FORMAL INVOCATION" ISN'T RELIABLE INDICATOR BECAUSE MANY CONTESTS DON'T REACH THAT FINAL STAGE AND "A LIBRARY OF CONGRESS STUDY FOUND 9 INCIDENTS IN WHICH RN HAS USED EXEC. PRIVILEGE, NOT INCLUDING INSTANCES CONCEDED BY WH."

MCGRORY SAYS NO ONE HAS MADE "GREATER OR MORE EFFECTIVE USE" OF ADHESIVE TAPE THAN RN. IN '68, HE DIDN'T DISCUSS VN, AND "NOW HE HS SEALED HIS LIPS" ABOUT WATERGATE. "FAR MORE INTRIGUING" TO MCGRORY THAN RN'S REMINISCENCES OF HISS CASE WAS "HINT THAT GRAY MAY HAVE DECLINED SHARPLY" IN WH FAVOR AS SHE NOTES "2 OMINOUS CONTRASTS" BETWEEN GRAY AND HOOVER WERE MADE. "GRAY, CAUGHT BETWEEN LUST FOR OFFICE AND LOYALTY TO RN...CAME DOWN ON THE SIDE OF PERSONAL AMBITION." RN MAY HAVE BEEN WARNING GRAY, TO USE ADHESIVE TAPE, OR HE MAY HAVE BEEN SIGNALLING THAT GRAY MAY GET CHANCE TO RETURN TO LAW PRACTICE...AGRONSKY, EVANS, HOBART ROWEN, LISAGOR, AND NOYES, CONSENSUS AGREED 4-1 (NOYES DISSENTING) THAT, AS LISAGOR SAID, "ODDS HAVE SHIFTED AWAY" FROM GRAY NOMINATION WHICH LAST WEEK FOUND MARTIN'S GROUP SEEING, ALBEIT RELUCTANTLY, CONFIRMATION IN A 4-0 POLL. LISAGOR THOUGHT AGRONSKY'S SUGGESTION TOO STRONG THAT RN WAS "READY TO DUMP" GRAY BUT ALL SENSED SOME MEASURE OF REBUKE ON LETTING OUT RAW FILMS.

WHITE SAYS "AS HE SHOULD"RN IN WINING 1 AND LOSING 1 CONFRONTATION W/HILL. DEM ATTACK ON BUDGET IS DECLINING BECAUSE 1) THEY REALIZE RN IS TRYING TO "CLEAR UP HORRENDOUS WELFARE MESS." EVEN MOST ULTRA-LIB DEMS ARE BACKING AWAY FROM ASSOCIATION W/SO-CALLED CIVIL RIGHTS GROUPS WHO ARE THREATENING STREET VIOLENCE. HOWEVER, IN 2ND CONFRONTATION, WHITE SAYS RN IS RIGHT IN DEFENDING EXEC. PRIVILEGE BUT WRONG "IN CARRYING IT TO POINT HE IS." WATERGATE DOESN'T INVOLVE SUCH "GRAND, DELICATE AND PROPERLY CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS" AS FOREIGN POLICY. BUT SENS--ALTHO THEIR "HEARTS" AREN'T ENTIRELY "PURE NOR FREE FROM PARTISAN POLITICS"--ARE SEEKING INFO ON ALLEGED "SKULLDUGGERY," WHICH WHITE IS BEGINNING TO BELIEVE DOES EXIST. RN CAN WIN LEGALLY, BUT HIS COURSE WON'T PREVAIL W/PUBLIC, AND "THIS IS THE GAME AN ADAMANT PRES. WILL ULTIMATELY LOSE."

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IN COLUMN ON VERACITY FACTOR (VF) -- "INDEX OF TRUTH-TELLING AMONG POLS AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS" -- LISAGOR CONTENDS IT HAS REACHED A "PRETTY LOW LEVEL": 1) HOUR OF CRISIS HAS PASSED IN CITIES, BUT URBAN PROGRAMS WHICH BROUGHT THEM THRU IT HAVE FAILED; 2) CRIME RATE HAS DECLINED, BUT "TOUGH, NO-PITY, ANTI-CRIME BILL" IS PROPOSED; 3) GRAY RESPONDS TO JUDICIARY AND THEN HEARS RN ACCUSE HIM OF SPREADING "RAW FILES;" 4) RN SAYS QUESTIONS CONCERNING WATERGATE ARE "VERY PROPER," BUT HE WON'T ANSWER ANY WHILE MATTER IS UNDER INVESTIGATION EVEN THO HE'S PROUD ADMIN. HAS BEEN "FORTHCOMING."

ECONOMY/BUDGET-RELATED

DALE IN TIMES SAYS RN'S DECISION TO SELL STOCKPILES WAS INTENDED IN GOOD PART AS ANTI-INFLATION MEASURE BUT ANOTHER BONUS WILL BE "BUDGETARY." THE DECISION WAS ALSO "MORE EVIDENCE OF THE REDUCTION IN INTERNAT'L TENSION." A HIGH OFFICIAL IS QUOTED AS CALLING IT "A KIND OF PEACE DIVIDEND."...RASKIN IN TIMES SAYS TENTATIVE RR SETTLEMENT "BROUGHT CONSIDERABLE REASSURANCE" TO WH MONITORS OF PH. 3 THAT THEY COULD HOLD WAGE LINE. "BUT JUST HOW NONINFLATIONARY THE ACCORD REALLY IS WAS BROUGHT INTO DOUBT BY DISCLOSURE" PUBLIC WILL PAY A ESTIMATED \$1B/YEAR IN HIGHER FREIGHT CHARGES.

TIMES' MULLANEY SAYS IT WAS ONLY 8-7 AGAINST A '74 RECESSION AT A GATHERING LAST WEEK OF 15 TOP ECONOMISTS IN NYC. HOWEVER THE WRITER SAYS THERE ARE FEW DANGER SIGNALS CLOSE BY AS "THE CURRENT EXPANSION IS STILL RELATIVELY YOUNG, VIGOROUS AND BROAD BASED, W/NO MAJOR DISTORTIONS SO FAR."

TAX REFORMER PHILLIP STERN (REFERRED TO AS "EXPERT" IN TIME'S LEAD) SAID IT'S "SHEER DEMAGOGUERY" TO ASSERT, AS JDE DID, THAT THE ONLY TAX REFORMS WHICH WOULD BRING IN MUCH NEW MONEY WOULD HURT AVERAGE TAXPAYER. HE SAYS \$14B COULD BE RAISED "IN A SINGLE STROKE" BY TAXING CAPITAL GAINS AS EARNED INCOME. TIME'S EDIT ALSO RAPPED JDE FOR "PARTICULARLY SHAMEFUL PROPAGANDA EXERCISE."

BRODER NOTES DEM RESPONSE TO BUDGET HAS BEEN "VOLUMINOUS BUT NOT VERY EFFECTIVE IN SWAYIN PUBLIC OPINION. THIS SUGGESTS EITHER RN IS RIGHT, OR DEMS HAVE BEEN ARGUING THEIR CASE POORLY -- OR PERHAPS NOT THE RIGHT CASE." WURF AND LUCEY HAVE BEEN "PERSUASIVELY" ASSERTING LATTER, W/WURF TELLING DEMS NOT TO ARGUE W/RN ON "IDEOLOGICAL QUESTION OF PATERNALISTIC, BIG GOVT." BUT CONCENTRATE ON SPECIFIC EFFECTS IN HUMAN TERMS OF SPECIFIC CUTS. LUCEY ADDS DEMS SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON "THOSE ISSUES WHICH UNITE, RATHER THAN DIVIDE, THEIR CONSTITUENCY." BRODER FEELS SUCH LINES SUGGEST "HOPEFUL THOUGHT DEMS MAY YET EMERGE...AS ADVOCATES OF SOMETHING OTHER THAN PRESERVATION OF NEW DEAL AND GREAT SOCIETY STATUS QUO."

TIMES' NAUGHTON REPORTS SENATE DEMS PLAN FY 74 "COUNTER-BUDGET" INCLUDING CEILING AND W/NO GREATER DEFICIT THAT THAT IN ADMIN

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BUDGET, "BEYOND THOSE SIMILARITIES IT WOULD DIFFER SHARPLY," W/ MORE ALLOCATED FOR DOMESTIC SPENDING PROPOSALS FOR TAX REFORM. HILL COMMITTEES WOULD BE LEFT W/MORE AUTHORITY ON PRIORITIES. CHARLES SCHULTZE IS HELPING THE DEMS.

FAVORING OED'S DISMANTLEMENT, JEFF ST. JOHN SAYS "BATTLE BETWEEN ADMIN. AND COALITION OF BLACKS, WHITE INTELLECTS AND LIBERAL MCS FIGHTING FOR RETENTION, IF NOT EXPANSION, OF SOCIAL WELFARE SCHEMES HAS OBLSCURED THE CRUELITIES SUCH PROGRAMS HAVE INFLICTED ON POOR," BUT HE IS EQUALLY OPPOSED TO TURNING OED'S FUNCTION OVER TO HEW, "WHICH HAS BECOME A BUREAUCRATIC BOONDOGGLE AND GOVT. GRAVY TRAIN FOR US EDUCATION, WELFARE, AND ACADEMIC ELITE."

RE: IMPOUNDMENT, TIMES SAYS, "IF HILL SUPINELY ACQUIESCES IN THIS AUDACIOUS BID FOR INCREASED POWER, THEN THE NEAR-DICTATORSHIP WHICH A PRES. NOW EXERCISES IN WAR AND DIPLOMACY WILL HAVE BEEN EXTENDED TO THE DOMESTIC SPHERE."

OTHER DOMESTIC NEWS

NOTING "SCATTERING" OF KILLINGS OF BLACKS BY WHITE POLICE, ROY WILKINS SAYS "THE PERSISTENT WORD IS THERE IS AN ASSOCIATION OF A BLACK SKIN W/CRIMINALITY IN MINDS OF POLICE." IN THIS "NATL. MOOD OF UNREST, SUSPICION AND ABRASIVE CHALLENGE, IT WOULD BE WELL FOR WHITE POLICE TO TAKE A SPLIT SECOND MORE" WHEN THEY HAVE TO MAKE SNAP JUDGMENTS.

DRUMMOND SAYS VP SENSES "POLITICAL HURRICANE MOVING NORTH FROM TEXAS," SO AT GRIDIRON DINNER "HE DID MORE THAN TOSS AN OLIVE BRANCH TO THE PRESS; HE TOSSED THE WHOLE TREE." VP MADE IT CLEAR HE HAS NO QUARREL AND "LEFT IMPRESSION HE'S GOING TO BE 'MELLOW AND SWEET."

FRITCHEY SAYS "CRUCIAL THREAT" IN ADMIN'S "ATTACKS" ON PRESS IS NOT COST TO MEDIA BUT TO PUBLIC IF ADMIN. "SUCCEEDS IN EFFECTIVELY DIVIDING PEOPLE AND PRESS." WHITE "FAVORITE COMPLAINT" IS "BIAS." ADMIN. KNOWS IT BENEFITS, ON BALANCE, FROM WHATEVER BIAS THERE IS, FRITCHEY ASSERTS, BECAUSE PRESS "OVERWHELMINGLY" SUPPORTED RN "IN ALL HIS (WH) CAMPAIGNS." REAL PROBLEM ISN'T BIAS BUT MEDIA'S PRACTICE OF PUBLISHING BROADCASTING NEWS "OBJECTIVELY" A POLICY "FREQUENTLY UPSETTING TO GOVT. WHICH INSISTS THE NEWS IS WHATEVER IT SAYS IT IS." FRITCHEY PAYS TRIBUTE TO EAGLETON AND MUSKIE WHO SUFFERED AT HANDS OF PRESS IN '72, YET ARE STRONG FOR SHIELD LAW.

SIMILAR TO PHILLIPS, KEN CRAWFORD SAYS "SOME OF (PRESS) DETECT DANGERS IN ANY ATTEMPT TO DEFINE (OUR) FREEDOM AS GUARANTEED BY 1ST AMEND. SPECIAL FAVORS GRANTED BY HILL TODAY COULD BECOME DISFAVORS TOMORROW," AND WHO SHOULD BE PROTECTED? "IS ANYBODY WHO CLAIMS TO BE A JOURNALIST TO BE GRANTED IMMUNITY...IF NOT, WHERE IS LINE TO BE DRAWN?" ALTHO PRESS IS "FACING NEW DIFFICULTIES, IT IS FULLY CAPABLE OF DEFENDING ITS FREEDOMS IN THE FUTURE AS IT HAS IN THE PAST," AND DOESN'T NEED SHIELD, SAYS CRAWFORD.

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CHIEF GURU OF THE TV CRITICS, O'CONNOR OF THE TIMES, SAYS "TV MUST DEMONSTRATE IT CAN DEAL W/PROVOCATIVE, CONTROVERSIAL AND ABRASIVE SUBJECTS, THAT'S WHY IT'S ESSENTIAL CBS RECOVER COURAGE OF ORIGINAL CONVICTIONS AND CARRY 'STICKS AND BONES" ABOUT THE UNWELCOME AND BLIND VN VET. POLITICS

DRUMMOND SAYS CONNALLY SWITCH WILL BE LIKE "DROPPING BRICK IN A TEACUP." HIS DARK HORSE STATUS WILL BE OVER AND HE'LL PROBABLY "SOON EMERGE AT THE HEAD OF THE PACK." IN ERA OF UNIMPORTANT PARTY LOYALTY AND TICKET-SPLITTING, HIS SWITCH MAY PROVE MORE ASSET THAN HANDICAP. BUT NOBODY SHOULD UNDERESTIMATE VP OR THINK HE'LL QUIETLY ACCEDE TO JBC. VP IS A "FORMIDABLE POLITICIAN" W/DEDICATED FOLLOWING. DRUMMOND ALSO SPECULATES ROCKY MAY HAVE A SHOT IF '76 TREND IS AWAY FROM RN-VP-JBC CONSERVATISM. SIMILARLY, PERCY. SUCH COMPETITION WOULD BE "THE KIND RN HAS WANTED ALL ALONG." SAYS ROSCOE WHO COMPARES JBC TO EX-FDR SUPPORTER WILKIE WHO SWITCHED AND WON '40 NOMINATION FROM REGULARS DEWEY AND TAFT. CONNALLY HAS MORE GOING FOR HIM -- SUCCESSES IN JFK AND RN ADMINS. AND "NO AMERICAN HAS BEEN AS HIGHLY PRAISED BY RN." DRUMMOND SAYS WHEN GOP WORKERS MEET HIM, "THEY WON'T FORGET HIM."

EVANS-NOVAK SAY BUSH'S NAMING OF RIETZ TO KEY RNC POST AFTER TALKING W/HRH "HAS DEEPLY DISTURBED MANY GOP LEADERS." THEY DIDN'T LIKE MOVE IN 1ST PLACE AS THEY VIEWED RIETZ AS AGENT FOR BROCK "BUT WHEN THEY LEARNED OF HRH-BUSH CONVERSATIONS, THEY WERE EVEN LESS HAPPY -- CONTENDING WH STAFF SHOULDN'T RUN THE GOP." BUT CLARKE REED DEFENDS APPOINTMENT AND SAYS THERE'S NO REASON RN SHOULDN'T BE PLAYING KEY PARTY ROLE.

EVANS-NOVAK SAY WATTENBERG'S NEW COALITION FOR DEM MAJORITY HAS "SUFFERED 2 QUIET SETBACKS": 1) HHH'S REFUSAL TO BECOME NATL. HONORARY CO-CHRMN. W/JACKSON AND 2) PATRICIA HARRIS' W/DRAWAL. "W/OUT SUCH PRESTIGIOUS FIGURES, CDM COULD BECOME A POLITICALLY POWERLESS COLLECTION OF INTELLECTUAL MODERATES LOCATED TO RIGHT OF DEM CENTER." E-N ADDS SOME CDM FOUNDERS CONCEDE THEIR REASON FOR BEING WAS UNDERCUT W/STRAUSS' ELECTION.

BRADEN LEADS BY BEMOANING FACT FEW TAXPAYERS ARE PARTICIPATING IN CAMPAIGN CHECKOFF PLAN. AND, SAYS TOM, "IT LOOKS AS THO AMERICANS ARE NOT, AFTER ALL, GOING TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT VESCOISM," WHICH HE CALLS "A SOUND, EASY-TO-PRONOUNCE WORD W/WHICH TO DESCRIBE THOSE WHO ENTER THE PROCESS IN ORDER TO PURCHASE A FAVOR."

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