

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

28 February 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

□ (b)(3)

SUBJECT: Conversation with Senator Symington
Re Senator Baker's Watergate Investigation

1. This afternoon I called Senator Symington to pass on to him a message from Ambassador Helms who had called me yesterday at my home. I said Helms asked me to be sure to tell the Senator that Helms would be in town early in the week of March 4th and wanted to see the Senator at an early opportunity. Symington said he had written to Senator Baker asking that Helms' appearance be postponed until the afternoon of the 7th or the morning of the 8th. Symington said he would be available to see Helms any time from the 3rd on.

2. Symington said he understood Baker had dug up "a good deal of stuff" on the Watergate issue. I said it was my understanding that Baker had indeed developed a good deal of information, but it was not particularly relevant to the Watergate question. However, I said, I understood it might be something that Senator Symington and his colleagues on the Agency Oversight Committee might want to be up to date on, since it might be embarrassing if Senator Baker had significant information about Agency activities which was unknown to the Oversight Committee. Symington said it was "not for me to tell Baker" what to look into. I said I wasn't suggesting this, but only wanted to suggest that if Baker had developed any significant information about the Agency, it might be well for the Oversight Committee to at least be familiar with what was involved, and I was sure that George Cary or one of my other former colleagues would be glad to come by and brief Symington on Baker's latest investigation at Symington's convenience.

3. Symington said that he thought the best thing to do was to let Baker "run out his string." He said he didn't think Baker had done anything wrong and I agreed, but commented I thought Symington would want to know everything Baker knew about the Agency. Symington said that was why he wanted to go to the hearing at which Helms was scheduled to appear.

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~ W-5

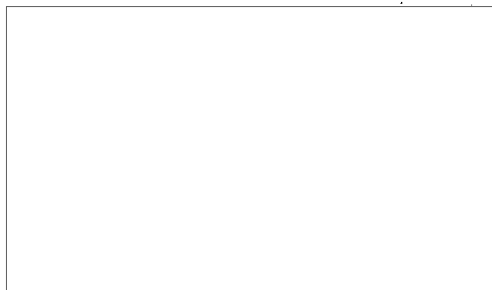
~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

4. Symington said that he thinks Chairman Nedzi has decided that the Agency handled itself properly, but Baker doesn't share this feeling. Symington added that it was his personal opinion that Baker now thinks he is being given the run-around by the White House and possibly being given the knife.

5. I mentioned to Symington the rumor I had picked up that Colson might be passing the word around that Helms knew about the Watergate break-in in advance. Symington said that in his view Colson was "the most vicious man in town." Symington said that he had shown Baker the column by Tom Braden (presumably referring to the column of 11 December 73 in which Braden speculated that the White House might be using Baker to try to pin the blame for the Watergate break-in on CIA). In closing, Symington said, "Let's see who gets indicted."



JOHN M. MAURY
Office of Legislative Counsel



APR 17 1973
J. MAURY

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~