

Executive Registry
74-645

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OLC 74-0129

26 January 1974

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Senator Baker

1. Today I accompanied the Director to a meeting with Senator Howard Baker (R., Tenn.) which was requested by the Senator last night. The meeting lasted 1 1/2 hours, with the Director and the Senator meeting for a few minutes by themselves and then George Murphy, Deputy Director, Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, and myself joining in the rest of the session.

2. What emerged as Senator Baker's principal interests were:

a. The Helms/Hunt relationship.

The Director observed that Mr. Hunt probably had been spoiled within the Agency--primarily because of his writing talents.

b. The degree to which he could trust CIA, and, if he can, the degree to which top management would be aware of all activities either within CIA or by its employees.

The Director observed that top management was aware of the profile on Ellsberg and the provisioning of Hunt, the only two Watergate-related incidents in which the Agency had engaged. It was pointed out that it would be highly unlikely that lower Agency echelons could engage in improper activities without the knowledge of top management mostly because of the bureaucratic processes involved in conducting or supporting a clandestine operation.

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c. What CIA activities, if any, the President is trying to protect in connection with investigation of the activities of the Plumbers?

The Director said he simply did not know, mentioning the situation in India in passing. In response to direct questions, the Director said he did not believe it had anything to do with the Radford matter, nor with 3 d. below.

d. The above and other principal points of interest are further developed in the attached listing of followup items.

3. Other points developed:

a. Robert Foster Bennett, pursuant to Gordon Liddy's instructions, relayed information to Mr. Hunt while he was in hiding after the Watergate breakin. The Director speculated that the code word system used probably was a throw back to Mr. Hunt's tradecraft (one code word used was something like "Mr. Pecan").

b. The Mullen Company either was involved in or unsuccessfully bid on security work [redacted] [redacted] was engaged by Hughes for public relations work.

c. [redacted] asked Mr. Hunt about certain sensitive services and Mr. Hunt referred it to Mr. McCord.

d. Senator Baker said he didn't know whether to believe [redacted] claim that there is a sensitive Agency matter which he can't discuss. The Director acknowledged that an unusually sensitive matter did exist completely unrelated to "Watergate" and Senator Baker and Mr. Murphy agreed to treat the matter as such and to make no reference of it to others. In response to Mr. Murphy's question as to whether it concerned operational cover slots, the Director said it involved a "technical" matter.

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e. Infighting and conflicts between Laird/Kissinger/
Ehrlichman/Moorer.

f. In response to Senator Baker's query as to why Mr. Helms left CIA, the Director indicated a comment was outside his province, and in the ensuing discussion explained that it might be connected with the implementation of the 1971 Presidential Order coordinating the intelligence community and the political problems in implementing that order.

g. In response to a pinpoint question from Mr. Murphy, the Director

[Redacted]

h. Miles Copeland identified Mr. James Angleton to Senator Baker as an individual of interest.

i. Senator Baker was impressed by the book by Mr. John Newhouse entitled "Cold Dawn" and remarked that the material collected therein could only result from a leak within Dr. Kissinger's staff.

4. The Senator requested that we continue to work independently with Fred Thompson, of the Select Committee, explaining that he prefers to handle the more sensitive matters through George Murphy and the Joint Committee's safekeeping facilities.

[Redacted]

Associate Legislative Counsel

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Att.

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FOLLOWUP ITEMS

26 JANUARY 1974 MEETING WITH SENATOR HOWARD BAKER,
VICE CHAIRMAN, SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON
PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES

1. Was the Agency in any way involved in the investigation of the Yeoman Charles E. Radford matter? Apparently there were three investigations-- (a) Buzhardt, (b) Plumbers, and (c) there were two reports of investigations, one short and one voluminous in nature.
2. Any information we might have involving any financial transaction between Mr. Helms and E. Howard Hunt. Senator Baker said he had information that Mr. Helms gave Mr. Hunt \$30,000 when Hunt left the Agency. He did not believe that Mr. Helms had private resources to cover such an amount and wanted to know if perhaps somehow Agency funds had been used. Senator Baker also said he had information that Mr. Helms helped Mr. Hunt get his job at the White House. (On 14 December 1973 Senator Baker asked Fred Thompson, Minority Counsel of the Committee, if he should tell me about the "money." The Senator deferred on the basis of Mr. Thompson's advice that they were not yet sure of their source. On 11 January 1974 I asked Mr. Thompson if the earlier reference by Senator Baker concerning "money" was still active. Mr. Thompson said it was not and that they had run down the story to the original source and learned that they had initially acquired a garbled account as "the money had nothing to do with Watergate." As a result I had a feeling that this may have related to the payment to Mr. Hunt for a writeup of an award.)
3. A full and complete wrapup of the Agency's past dealings with the Mullen Company, including the date that Robert F. Bennett was first made witting of CIA cover slots in the company.
4. Wrapup of the Agency's relationship with E. Howard Hunt and James McCord.

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5. Any information we may have on why the President referred to the possible compromise of CIA activities when the President issued his instructions regarding Justice's investigation concerning the Plumbers.
6. Does the Agency possess any tapes recording any conversation with any of the principals involved in "Watergate"?
7. Let Senator Baker hear the tape covering General Cushman's session with Mr. Hunt.
8. In response to his question Senator Baker was told that none of the Watergate principals were under our surveillance. When Senator Baker learned that apparently Frank Sturgis had attempted to set up a session with our [redacted] office in Miami on Friday, he strongly recommended that we not avoid such a session and said that if we didn't he might subpoena Mr. Sturgis to find out what he wanted to talk to us about. It was Senator Baker's opinion that our refusal to meet with Mr. Sturgis could be made to look just as sinister as any meeting with him. On the way back to the office Mr. Colby agreed that if Mr. Sturgis called again to reschedule the meeting he failed to attend on Friday, that we should tell him that we would see him but only if what he wants to discuss concerns foreign intelligence matters or directly involves the Agency, otherwise he should tell his story to the FBI or other appropriate Federal agency. Chief, [redacted] [redacted] was so advised in the early afternoon on 26 January. (b)(3)
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9. Spencer Oliver, Jr., still maintains that he had or has an association with CIA.
10. Did Mr. James Angleton have any conversation with any of the Watergate principals after the break-in on 17 June 1972?
11. Was Mr. David Young granted a conference badge and associated access to Agency building?
12. Is there any identifiable communication from Dr. Kissinger to Mr. Helms instructing Mr. Helms to let Dr. Kissinger know if anyone else in the White House outside of Dr. Kissinger's command or control calls the Agency?
13. How often, and identify the circumstances, when the Agency's polygraph capability (either equipment or personnel) has been made available and used by others in the Executive Branch.

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