

interview with my friend--- Jan. 24

6 says that there is not anything he would even consider circumstantial evidence to show that Colson and Mitchell involved. However, it the feeling of FBI head and Gray that Colson and Mitchell were behind the operation--- especially Colson whose role was active. Mitchell's position was more "amoral"---giving the nod but not conceiving the ~~xx~~ scheme.

Indications that the ~~two~~ ^{two} involved center on about four factors: 1. the personalities and past performance of Both (Gray dislikes Mitchell and has privately let that be known). 2. Meetings and phone calls at crucial times--- all which Colson and Mitchell explain. ~~xxx~~ as involving other matters. 3. the tight control of money---especially by Mitchell who was getting details "almost to point about how much spent on pencils and erasers." 4. the "indisputable fact" that the seven indicted believe they will be taken care of. ~~fox~~ and this could only be done convincingly by someone up high, "and it has been done convincingly somehow." disagreement

says that there is really no ~~disagreement~~ among investigators that Mitchell and Colson ~~xx~~ "involved up to their ears." Yet, he says, this is "an investigative assumption which goes unproven. If the FBI could not prove it, I don't think the Washington Post can."

Says that everybody is hoping McCord or Liddy will take the stand "that the bubble of security" will break and the two defendants will realize "no one can help them because it will be too obvious."

Maintains that "what makes this obviously a Haldeman-Colson operation is the hiring of Liddy ~~at~~ Hunt because if you check you'll find the two had reputations that are the lowest." Says that just hiring ~~xxx~~ them was "immoral" because of their backgrounds. "Liddy did want to tap the New York Times (during pentagon papers) and everybody knew it . . . and not everyone was laughing about it. * We're sure Mitchell liked~~xx~~ the idea."

"Magruder is a SOB" and look out for him; but others realize this and belief is strong that he will be bounced out.

Emphasizes that "insulation" is the key phrase to understand why no evidence can be developed. This type of ~~xx~~ thing can "only be broken from the inside . . . look all that was learned from Sloan and he didn't know that much and should not be considered an insider."

The Senate investigation "is going to have a problem unless they get someone ~~from~~ the inside---without that you come up with lots of money and plans for dirty tricks, but little characterization of the operation."

Kalmbach operation was essentially a question of using the information they obtained---it the user end, while Hunt-Liddy more to obtain the information.

Baldwin is "terrible, never passed the bar exam---an absolute loser."
"Baldwin was effectively fired from the FBI"

~~XXXXXX~~ ad one - Jan 24

6 Sloan was worried that he would be prosecuted ~~XXXXXX~~ under the campaign law. Sloan still feels loyal to this date, but he will tell the ~~XXXXXX~~ truth. 6

the attempt to separate the Watergate and the espionage operation "are a lot of bull shit," ~~far as far as people~~ ~~perceived~~ they amount to the same thing. However, legally they are two different things---and the distinction has ~~to~~ to be made sharply. "We can't prove anything illegal on the other stuff at this point---but if it were pursued, theyx I'm sure we could have." Says the investigation into the S gretti operations, etc. were "dropped" if no connection^e with the Watergate was found.

(I outlined the story and info on Colson and Mitchell. to him and he say s that the newspaper has to decide---but if its done it should be done soon because the longer we wait the more confident they ~~will be~~ get that they can attack safely. He didn't seem impressed with the story)

He still refuses to give any new information. Says that the 400+ page report is still "locked up" and that he would only assist in getting it if the Senate investigation falls ~~thru~~ apart.)

Says that Gray will probably not let basic 302 reports out to the Senate because of the precedent it would establish.

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