EYES ONLY AMBASSADOR HELMS FROM MAURY

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH WOOLSEY AND ME AFTERNOON 15 NOVEMBER PREPARATORY TO 16 NOVEMBER COMMITTEE HEARING ON ST. GEORGE ALLEGATIONS, SYMINGTON MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:


APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: MAR 2006

HR 70-14 (U)
Fired during which Cox at no time made any mention of a Y concern that an "important witness" had misled the committee or that he was dissatisfied with your testimony in any way.

B. Helms and the agency are not out of the woods yet, and Helms should be strongly advised to consult his own lawyer immediately—a first-class lawyer like Clark Clifford. The agency should get some smart fellow working right away on the question of just how Haldeman and company can beat the rap by pinning blame on Helms and the agency.

C. Symington doesn't blame Helms for being "sore as hell" at what is going on but says he has got to keep his cool and especially has got to get the advice of a top-flight lawyer.

2. You doubtless well aware Symington increasingly erratic in recent years and more and more tends to shoot from the hip. However, his analysis of problem is fairly consistent with recent pattern of events. If indeed Haldeman et al are engaged in major effort to shaft you and the agency only motive that readily appears is that of creating diversionary smoke screen or false trail but you might have insights that go deeper. As Greasy points out, if...
HALDERMAN OR OTHER WATERGATE DEFENDANTS ARE LAYING STRATEGY FOR
DEFENSE IN CRIMINAL PROSECUTION THEY DOUBTLESS RECKON THAT BY
CONVINCING ONLY ONE JUROR THAT THERE IS REASONABLE DOUBT AS TO
THE ESSENTIAL FACTS THEY CAN HANG THE JURY.

3. SO FAR AS SPECIAL PROSECUTOR'S STAFF IS CONCERNED, SOME
JUNIOR MEMBERS HAVE BEEN HEARD TO REFER DISPARAGINGLY TO THE AGENCY
AND CERTAINLY KENNEDY HIMSELF, AND THE WITNESSES THAT HE APPARENTLY
SPONSORED, TRIED TO GIVE US A HARD TIME DURING COLBY CONFIRMATION
HEARING. HAVE NO CLUE TO DATE ON ATTITUDE JAWORSKI.

4. HAVE DISCUSSED SUGGESTION OF YOU RETAINING PRIVATE COUNSEL
WITH HOUSTON WHO FAILS TO SEE JUST WHAT YOUR OWN LAWYER COULD DO
FOR YOU OTHER THAN WHAT HOUSTON, WARKER AND GREANY ARE TRYING TO
DO. HOWEVER, IF YOU DID WANT TO FOLLOW THIS SUGGESTION, HOUSTON
SAYS YOU MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER BARRETT PRETTYMAN, JR., WHO
HOUSTON FOUND VERY HELPFUL WITH THE REINE VS RAUSE CASE. HOUSTON'S
PERSONAL FEELING IS THAT, IF YOU DID WANT PRIVATE COUNSEL, THE
AGENCY SHOULD PICK UP THE TAB.

5. HAVE JUST DISCUSSED WITH WOOLSY SYMINGTON'S SUGGESTION RE
PRIVATE COUNSEL AND HE POINTS OUT THAT SYMINGTON HIMSELF, WHEN
FACED WITH DIFFICULT PROBLEMS, LIKES TO SIT DOWN WITH HIS OLD
FRIEND CLARK CLIFFORD AND TRY OUT DIFFERENT IDEAS FOR DEALING WITH
THE SITUATION. WOOLSEY SUSPECTS IT IS SOMETHING LIKE THIS, RATHER
THAN FORMALLY RETAINING A LAWYER TO ACCOMPANY OR REPRESENT YOU IN
HEARINGS ETC., THAT SYMINGTON HAS IN MIND.

6. IN ANY EVENT WE SEE NO URGENCY IN THIS PROBLEM, SO SUGGEST
WE LET IT REST UNTIL WE CAN TALK IT OVER DURING YOUR UPCOMING VISIT.
ALL THE BEST AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THEN. E2 IMPEDEL.
SECRET