

Military coup?

10/27/73

From the beginning of The Watergate I have considered this a possibility, but on what now seems to me to be too restrictive a basis. I had considered its Nixon's extremity. Based on observing last night's press conference and intermittent news reports from 4 until 8 a.m. this morning, I wonder is there is not another and by now perhaps more likely possibility, a coup without Nixon and because of him.

Last night be deliberately precipitated another crisis that will not be long in climaxing. After a majority of the Senate signified that it would have a special prosecutor, within its legal and Constitutional responsibilities and powers, after he had fired Cox, after he had failed in about a week (and knowing he was firing Cox, much more time), he brazenly first announced he would have his own and he would deny to his own what he had denied to Cox, which caused this crisis. So, there will be no end to these crises, and he cannot survive an end to them. That is now clear.

Meanwhile, all else is falling apart on him and the country. He has needlessly given gross offense to the USSR and bragged he was a bully because they know how tough he is. No country, certainly no powerful country, will take much of this. It is no way to build the boasted "detente". He has needlessly offended all the NATO allies over the Middle East War and called them nasty names. He even bragged that he kept them from freezing.

If his deliberate picking of fights with the press last night is not a sign that his mental problems are out of control, it has to signify other things, one of the more likely being his awareness of the desperation of his situation.

This does not tick off all the possible reasons/excuses. It does say what I think is enough for military forces to decide a la Cuhile that stability requires them to take over. If it is by no means certain that the beginning of impeachment proceedings would forestall this - and that might precipitate it for the same "stability" reason - the fact that they have not really started after all this time is one of the causes of uncertainty.

What I am suggesting ~~that~~ is that most people who in the country have no experience with military dictatorships and no knowledge of them may be led to believe not that a dictatorship is the inevitable result but that the excuses given are valid. They will appear to be true on the surface.

If Rebozo does testify or even is called by the Wrvin committee in the hearings resuming in five days, the fat will be burning unless they cop out entirely. If Bebe takes the firth, he should envelope Nixon in the flames. If he is questioned as he would be in court by competent lawyers, the whole thing can't help but come apart. This will be truly scandalous and there is no avoidance for Nixon, not even open, public abandonment of El Bosom. Adding the only close personal friend to the incredible list of charged or peal-copping close associates, and the best he can say for himself is that he is grossly and incurably incompetent.

If any financial hanky-panky with money is connected with the Cox investigation - and leaks leave no doubt this is the case - then Nixon is connected with this dirtydoings and Nixon ended the investigation of it. That should be too much. His alone can explain last night. (So can a natural progression.)

What if it is too much for the top brass?

Or if they want to use it as an excuse?

As a matter of fact, if he is crazy and there is no other way of getting his finger off the global destruct button, how many alternatives are there?

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