

All his life Nixon has been a dirty-worker. And all his political life it has been his style, as Joseph Kraft remarked in his column of February 19, 1974, he has always had "others do his dirty work."

To illustrate his point Kraft recalled the experience of the forgotten Arnold Weber, who had managed the first stage of Nixon's wage-and-price freeze.

Nixon is the football buff who made it a practice to call coaches and tell them how to play their games, gibing them specific plays that were reported disasters. So, he asked Weber if the freeze should apply to the highly-paid football pros. As a matter of equity, Weber said, it should.

"I guess you're right," Nixon told him. But whatever you decide, leave me out of it."

This is the real inside on the Nixon who presented himself as the man in charge of everything, the man who had unsolicited advice for all on all, most of all on the trivial that big men would not have been aware of.

In his first administration, the "leave me out of it" approach to the Presidency had accounted for his need of the Haldemans, Ehrlichmans and Mitchells and after they were offed by Watergate, of the General Haigs and Zilglers.

~~Interpreting~~ Kraft of these and Nixon's predicament the phrase of Edmund Burke during the impeachment of Warren Hastings: There never was a bad man who had the ability for good service." (Post-2/19/74