

It is their grim joke, not mine.

Ordinarily, one holds anything connected with the President and his ~~xxx~~ effort to be re-elected in higher esteem.

But this is a story in which some villains become heroes, some criminals turn around and confess their own crimes in intimate detail, in the doing implicating others. First among these, as in theory he is first among equal citizens, not a dictator, is the President.

From the initial reporting, competent intelligence analysts would immediately have asked ~~xxx~~ themselves if the President had any personal involvement in the crime as then known and as could be anticipated when more was known.

He could have been the victim of his own overly-ambitious, overly-dedicated people. He could be innocent of any involvement.

He could have been aware of the crimes ~~xxxxxxx~~ and others that might come to light and be guilty of a felony by his silence. (Under Section 4 of Title 18 of the United States Code, it is a federal offense not to report a federal offense. This was one of the more common, repeated and uncharged crimes.)

Or, he could have been the one behind the ~~xxxxxxx~~ crimes.

As it is important for all Americans to know the answer or answers, so was it indispensable for every government in the world to know. For them the knowledge was essential in their relations with the Government of the United States and for anticipating internal developments in the United States and their possible influence on international affairs.

For Americans, the answers forecast their future.

Unlike most Americans, to whom these considerations are foreign, ^{intelligence} foreign analysts have basic information about this country and all key figures in it constantly in mind. Their files hold stores of facts that need not be secrets. These files also hold details few Americans keep in mind. The secrets are not as important as the greater bulk of data, public information. With the passing of time, these are forgotten by those without the need not to forget.

The better analysts would recall enough for a spot judgement. All would check the records before reaching a firm, if tentative answer to the essential question of Nixon's guilt or innocence. The public record of his long public career held enough information for the tentative conclusion on possibility.