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6/1/94

so marked the response to the official treatment of the assassination of President Kennedy, Nixon's conduct in Watergate fed American cynicism about Washington. Last month the *New York Times* discovered by interviewing high school seniors on Long Island that, because Ronald Reagan is the first President they remember, "they expect Presidents to be involved in scandals" and thought that Nixon's were therefore unremarkable. The Presidency itself was weakened and Congressional power grew enormously.

Having lost his first bid for the Presidency to Kennedy in 1960, and then failing in a comeback attempt to become governor of California in 1962, Nixon made an angered declaration of defeat to reporters. "You won't have Nixon to kick around anymore," he said.

But he did return to defeat Democratic Presidential candidate Hubert Humphrey in 1968. He invited it, and we did kick him around again. Now, in death, there will be more.

FYI

Great migrations—There is still time for members to announce pre-election retirements, but 1994 already looks like a major Congressional bailout year—46 from

the House of Representatives and 9 from the Senate. Because nearly two-thirds of the retirees so far are Democrats, the *New York Times* forecasts "exceedingly bad news for the Democratic Party and President Clinton."

A rise in inexperience is a given. Retirements from the House triggered by old age and poor prospects of re-election are already so many that "the majority of the next House is virtually certain to consist of politicians with four years of Washington experience or less," the *Times* predicts, yielding "the greenest House in at least 20 years, probably in 45 years."

If that pleases the proponents of term limits, the *Times* calls the impact "less clear for the legislative and electoral systems, which many have said have grown meaner and more impersonal with each succeeding rout of incumbents."

The bureaucracy will be shrinking, too, also with con-

tradictory results. The downsizing of the civil service by 10 percent, brought on by Vice President Gore's "reinventing government" crusade, is supposed to cut 272,900 Federal jobs over the next five years.

Help Wanted—The JFK Assassination Records Review Board (ARRB) isn't fooling, salary-wise. In its "Help Wanted" ads recruiting an executive director, the independent board assigned by Congress to oversee the public release of hundreds of thousands of government documents is luring applicants with an offer of up to almost cabinet-level compensation—\$108,200 a year. But the requirements are formidable. Applicants' résumés not only must list "a graduate or professional degree in history, law, public policy or a related area," they must also demonstrate that the applicant is a "private citizen of integrity and impartiality who is a distinguished professional and has had no previous involvement in any official investigation or inquiry relating to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy." Applications are to go to an AARB member, Prof. Kermit Hall, at Suite 111, Chapman Hall, University of Tulsa, 600 South College Avenue, Tulsa OK 74104-3189. The job is expected to be filled sometime this month. More later.

Politically incorrect—With apologies to several North Carolina readers of *The Washington Spectator* (April 1, page 3) who are Democrats and who say they found our mistake offensive—and to the *New York Times*, to which we attributed our error (it wasn't theirs, despite the quotation marks)—Senator Jesse Helms is no Democrat.

Communities in trouble—Following the Carnegie Corporation study of the causes and effects of disintegrating childhood in urban America (*The Washington Spectator*, May 15), another report by the Annie E. Casey Foundation finds that nearly half of the 3.9 million American children in troubled neighborhoods live in six states: California, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Ohio and Texas. The unanswered question is: what are we doing about it? In New York City, according to *Business Week*, the Boy Scouts Council has to pay college students to serve as troop leaders.

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ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:

NIXON:

With Expletives Deleted, the Nixon Legacy Is Camouflaged at His Death

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