he President: Standing 'Above the Battle'

friendly national response, over-all. ready heard enough about Watergate that most people feel they have alresponse to him. The evidence from the grass roots is pretty strong already wait to see the signs of the country's the Watergate horror, and one must Nixon stands a reasonable chance of a and allied misdeeds. Hence President

sure. One must add that this phase of sustained attack on the President and soon enough. And in that event, we may shortly see the end of the most will hear about from the grass roots ous to have a crippled American Presipractical reasons, it is always dangerno sort of moral reason. For bleakly the presidency has been perilous for perilous phase of the Watergate expo-If that is the outcome, the Senate

max and its end. worth noting that this endlessly re-drafted address by Richard M. Nixon the future. For the present, it is more and on Wednesday, it reached its eliconflict has been going on for months longed conflict among the President's bore quite visible traces of the promost trusted remaining advisers. The But the response to the speech is in

stance the President ought to adopt vored a moderate, patient, above-the-battle stance. The main outlines of present staff members have always fasation and attack. The majority of his under the perpetual drumfire of accu-Wednesday's speech clearly followed The conflict has been about what

> "It cannot have been easy for Mr. Nixon to be pubprecisely what his most admired predecessors had licly portrayed as a monster of iniquity for doing also done." war.

Fred Buzhardt. the blueprint of this group, which has been led by Gen. Alexander Haig and the White House new legal adviser, J.

ministrations. urgings. The main trace of this—and a clear trace, too—was to be found in edly been tempted to listen to these both fists." The President has repeatvate friends, who have repeatedly urged him to "come out swinging with and the President's own circle of priamong the congressional rightwingers thorized wire-tapping in previous ad the reference in his speech to unau-But there have been others, notably

couple of cases, very much more comwho should know better, if they know of high-toned preaching from people mon-in all four of the previous adcourse right that the practice now so anything whatever about the life of istration was quite as common-in a loudly condemned in the Nixon adminthis dreary city. The President is of On this subject, we have heard a lot

ministrations since the second world

ress. The fact that the warning had to administration, when an old friend and without meaning, either. be conveyed in the corridor was not phone calls for a good while, would be wise to be careful about tele-There he gave a clear warning that it was being wiretapped in the Truman "security" investigation was in prognis Pentagon office into the corridor great Secretary of Defense, This reporter first learned that he Lovett, led the way silently from since a Robert

President Nixon to come ministrations' wiretapping of officials FBI files. by the standards of cynicism and expeare said to be fairly eye-popping, even wanted the complete records, which of those administrations, reporters and the result of a hand-search of 25,000 rience. He only got them, however, the rest, The record of the previous four ad were remarkably hard for by.

> self-restraint thus far. was made is proof enough of the temp-tation the President has continuously course. The results of the search felt to follow a much, much tougher the President has exercised a lot of above-summarized, are also proof that The simple fact that such a search

been true; or to watch the eagerness with which those denials were generlarger, more surprising scale. It cannot had also done, and sometimes on a far what his most admired predecessors for him to be publicly portrayed as a adequate factual inquiry. ally accepted, on the basis of no sort of denials that this could possibly have the indignant but grossly ill-informed have been easy for him, either, to hear monster of iniquity for doing precisely After all, it cannot have been easy

Nixonian Bay of Pigs, for instance, as against what happened in 1961 and about Watergate, you have to face the what was then said about it. unfair double standard. Think of this fered from what he must regard as an fact if you are honest about such mat-ters, that Richard M. Nixon has suf-Then, too, whatever you may think

describing the predictable results fists." Divisive will be a mild way of fice to "come out swinging with both wants, he will then do what he has al-ready come to doing. He will use all produce the results the nally. If the recent speech does not the awe-inspiring resources of his of-All this is of some importance, President Ħ

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