

This appears to be part of the
"Let's Get On With the Business
of America and Leave Watergate
to the Courts" Chorus. Never
heard of Robert Robert L. King.
This could have been written in
the WH, of course.

*Typical of campaign commercials,
spiesmen, schemers, politicians*

A Former Aide Talks About the President

By Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., former American League pitcher and concerned citizen. Mr. Kennedy's letter offers some observations on what he believes to be the most helpful comments on the event.

First, let me state that a personal friendship with Mr. Nixon dating back to the political days of 1944 when he was a New York Democrat. Also, let me state association with him during 1954, 1956 and 1957 in his capacity during those years as one of the Vice President's personal assistants. My primary basis of knowledge, other than experience, is that I hold very high beliefs in the Nixon integrity and ultimate worth as a man. While some detractors would allege a lack of objectivity because of these facts, I think it likely represents a more valid basis for judgement than many of the present "judges." My own personal frame of reference, built on long friendship and what I feel my association has given me in the way of insight into, and understanding, of Mr. Nixon's basic character and motivations are therefore, the platform from which I speak.

Perhaps there is at least a partial key to an understanding of the current trauma and to the question, "How could Mr. Nixon not have known?" in his instructions to me when I first entered into an employer-employee relationship in January, 1953. Mr. Nixon told me that one of my prime duties would be to "protect" him so that he would have sufficient time to study, read, think, and otherwise concentrate on the problems with which he was dealing. You will recall that President Eisenhower was, even then, thrust him into the center of the fight and abiding interest of foreign policy and world politics. Again time was taken up in preparation for these trips and, in a fairly short time, was absorbed in meetings of the Cabinet, National Security Council, Government Contracts Committee, and other bodies under the heavy protection and security of the members of the White House staff. This time was often on the matter. But Mr. Nixon's instructions were to "protect" him so that he would have sufficient time to study, read, think, and otherwise concentrate on the problems with which he was dealing. You will recall that President Eisenhower was, even then, thrust him into the center of the fight and abiding interest of foreign policy and world politics. Again time was taken up in preparation for these trips and, in a fairly short time, was absorbed in meetings of the Cabinet, National Security Council, Government Contracts Committee, and other bodies under the heavy protection and security of the members of the White House staff. This time was often on the matter.

believe that perhaps I tried too hard to have my cake and eat it too.

However, too literal an interpretation on the part of top staff people in a highly political situation (and politics is really neutral) can lead to a type of blindness and insensitivity on the part of both master and servant which can, in turn, lead to real problems. Such phrases as "the Berlin Wall" and rumors that the top staff "were harder to see than the President himself," could have any effect because of too strict a adherence with the admonition of "protect yourself," and with the subsequent result of almost forming a double moat around the "great free."

Such a system breeds an inordinate delegation of power. This, in turn, carries with it the seeds of its own destruction when it reposes in individuals whose experience, capacity (which is built on experience) and political instincts are limited. Other times, other places and other people, such a modus operandi might well have worked. The tragedy is that in this instance, sincere, hard-working, intelligent, dedicated, and patriotic young men were victims of a power-bred myopia which made them vulnerable to their own experience, particularly political inexperience.

These thoughts are offered by way of explanation, not absolution, as both the delegator and receiver of presidential power share in the responsibility for what happened. But the daily inference and fair right charges that Richard Nixon has lied to the American people is a cruel lie itself. In my own 30 years of friendship and intermittent association I have known a man, who I think is constitutionally unable to lie, particularly about such an overriding question of morality and integrity. Frankly, this characteristic is an indicator of that which has so frustrated and antagonized that part of the media which has been so long critical. Mr. Nixon gives the impression of a straight, forthright, God-fearing, apple pie patriot. Some dread of the press-TV simply don't believe he is for real. His strength and their frustration, lie in the fact that his character is in itself founded on these "square" principles. His concept of his own mission in life and of the President's duty will make it impossible for

him to present a false front. The complementary character of Pat Nixon herself would, I think, be a deterrent if he were even tempted.

In addition, the man is simply too intelligent to even consider the risk of a "second-story job" on Democratic headquarters to obtain the knowledge of what went on in Larry O'Brien's office. It is completely out of character for a man who would voluntarily deny himself the Presidency when it was probably within his grasp. Here, of course, I refer to 1960 when it is reported that J. Edgar Hoover and many friends urged him to contest the election because of known and probable vote frauds in Illinois, Michigan and Texas. Incidentally, I can imagine no more vicious assault on the American system than that of the actual theft of ballots and subversion of the citizens' basic voting right at the ballot box itself.

Yes, I think I know "how" Watergate happened. Mr. Nixon's remoteness and that of his top staff people made the latter vulnerable to an excess of power. The tragic irony is that equal excesses of zeal and dedication to a great President (which normally are admirable qualities) were short-circuited by this fatal juxtaposition which gradually eroded the judgement of otherwise good men.

I think most Americans will applaud President Nixon for the action he did take in initiating efforts to discover the source of leaks from the innermost proceedings of

the National Security Council and other high policy bodies. The nation's security demanded such action. At what point would continuing leaks undermine the delicate balancers even then being achieved between Russia and China by the Nixon-Kissinger plans? Any way you cut the Ellsberg cake, this man violated the law too, and the usual double standard under which the far left operates is painfully evident. Ellsberg is a hero — but the Nixon staff men are characterized as lawbreakers. However, this final element of a properly motivated inquiry which of necessity employed justifiable and available investigative techniques of microphones and/or telephone taps, even surreptitious entry, made easy the transition to their improper use and the excesses of Watergate and the so-called "plumbers unit."

John Mitchell's testimony

with fever as Jim had done his own
action cover. When I met Mr.
gruder and Dean M. grader we
have a conversation with surprised
persons. Dean M. grader is a man
who I did not know until he
brought a tape recording of the
recording. It is a very interesting
recording. It is a recording of
preaching. It is a recording of
a man who is a man who is a man
as that man. I am sure that
I will be a man who is a man
but I will be a man who is a man
because I am a man who is a man.
I am a man who is a man who is
a man who is a man who is a man
in the way of a comparable man is
a man who is a man who is a man
many of us are in points, but it is
surprisingly so, that I am scanning
your report. I am the actor and
everything is able to keep the
facts from the President while they
induced themselves in the vain
hope that it would all eventually
all go away. It is just as compre-
hensible that the system of "pro-
tection" - protect yourself -
produced a fertile breeding ground
for excessive, delegated authority.
Overclassification of an idealistic
state has become and now
the state has become and now
and a state has become and now
Waterside.

I have no doubt as to the ultimate
outcome of all be proved to
the satisfaction of the American
people that President Nixon did
not participate in either the plan-
ning or execution of Watergate.
The man to bear the inevitable
burden for a staff system and personnel
selection that made such a thing
possible, is a man who is a man
at the moment if for any I am sure he
can explain the reason much more
than I can with the knowledge of what
his mission to close personal
friends of a staff system. Mr.
Nixon's "personality" is well
known. I believe that the
mission of the staff is to give
the staff a plan the grand
design of an international
system between the
United States and China.
The staff is a man who is a man
in the way of a comparable man is
a man who is a man who is a man
many of us are in points, but it is
surprisingly so, that I am scanning
your report. I am the actor and
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Waterside.

Defending Nixon

Editor—God bless Robert L.
King for his most welcome letter
August 25 in defense of President
Nixon.

I find it terrifying that people
can be so vicious and malicious to-
ward this great man they've elected
as President of the United States.
What is the matter with good
old fashioned loyalty? ...

CAROLE PLESSAS

Piedmont,



Editor—... The platform from
which King speaks, as a former
Presidential aide, may qualify him
to speak about Mr. Nixon, but I
don't think it necessarily repre-
sents a more valid basis for judg-
ment of Mr. Nixon's character and
motivations. My opinion is simply
that Mr. Nixon is tarred with the
same brush as the other bad ac-
tors, and I agree that they are in-
deed "victims of an over-zealous
power-bred myopia." In fact, some
of the lesser characters are now in
jail.

I consider some of King's state-
ments and conclusions incongru-
ous and downright frightening,
such as the one about the Presi-
dent being "constitutionally unable
to lie." It is obvious to me, as
it is to everyone, that he has de-
ceived and lied to the people many
times, constitutionally or not. As
for his assessment of Mitchell's
testimony "above" that
of the others, I say it was just plain
garbage, along with the rest of it.

WILLIAM J. ROMAINE

El Cerrito,



Editor—I have one question for
Robert L. King... He states that
"Nixon is constitutionally unable
to lie." He continues, later, "His
concept of his own mission in life
and of the Presidency itself, would
make it impossible for him to
present a false front."

How does King square these
comments with the known fact
that Mr. Nixon knew of, if indeed
he did not personally order, 3630
copies of B-52's which dropped

160,000 tons of bombs on Camb-
odia while he, Mr. Nixon, was
publicly assuring the United States
citizens that they were respecting
the neutrality of Cambodia?

Neither Congress, which au-
thorizes the money for operations,
nor any member of the public was
informed of these deadly secret
raids. The money was certainly ob-
tained under false pretenses, the
public was certainly lied to. Out-
right Corrupt?

WILL C. A. BETTS

Stockton,



Editor—Thank you for printing
Mr. King's letter. The ferocity
with which President Nixon has
been attacking the news media is
far more disgraceful than Water-
gate. His office alone, for he is the
President of the United States, en-
titles him to some portion of re-
spect ...

S. D. MORSE

Walnut Creek,