

*David S. Broder*

# The Perils *Part 6/19/73* Of an Isolated Vice President

In his interview with Dan Rather on CBS the other evening, Sen. Barry Goldwater remarked that he thought that most of Richard Nixon's troubles over the years have come from the fact that he was a "loner," a man who had almost never been able to "let his hair down" and share in the camaraderie on which most politicians thrive.

Goldwater suggested—and the evidence certainly supports him—that this character trait made Mr. Nixon an easy victim, or even an accomplice, of a White House staff system that isolated him from much of what was happening in the country and the government. One price for this isolation—by the President's own statement—was the concealment of the truth of Watergate, with the fearful consequences it is now having for the administration.

Yet in that same interview, Goldwater spoke with seeming nonchalance about the possible succession of Vice President Agnew—a man who seems, to many observers, an even more isolated figure than the President. Goldwater said he expected Agnew to be the next Republican candidate for the White House and said that if Water-