

Nixon-psycho: Reston 9/7/73, "Good ~~EXHIBIT~~ Theater, "Bad Politics."

Reston still doesn't understand Nixon or the WG. He still thinks that Nixon wants a compromising Congress; to be loved and respected, to put in a popular program, all the things one would assume any President wants. He doesn't understand that Nixon's only chance of survival is to provoke everyone into fighting him. He doesn't understand Nixon's objectives and not understanding them can't see that there can be no defeat because everything that discourages people and debases the political system makes authoritarianism more certain and helps establish it. If Nixon didn't manufacture enemies for himself and then didn't pick fights with his fabricated enemies he would have to face himself, which he can't do and the people would be thinking of the mess he made. Instead they are thinking of the fights he fights. Those he fights are busy fighting him on his chosen ground, which keeps them from fighting him in ways that could hurt or with programs he doesn't want.

It is like trying to reason with the irrational, or trying to persuade one in a deep emotional funk by means of logic. It doesn't work. When Reston as much as says Nixon is a psycho he addresses him in any way but as a psycho. HW 9/14/73



# Good Theater, Bad Politics

...ing performance so  
...s merely irritated  
...ss, which does not  
... Nixon's perfor-  
...ten very helpful.

### APPROACH

The President's approach  
to the press and the courts is  
...the same as his atti-  
tude toward the Congress.  
... public attacks.

When Richard Yale called  
...ed Mr. Nixon  
... had a problem of  
... confidence in his  
... the President re-  
... he did, and they  
... this lack of con-  
... on the bur-  
... al deceptions and  
... and sabo-  
... his own supporters,  
... congressional in-  
... and newspaper  
... the facts.

... the President "at-  
... a few months or  
... vision time, he  
... attacked" by in-  
... leak by Frankly,  
... and dozens of commen-  
... was bound to  
... ar public con-  
... President Mr.

... and a  
... be  
... the  
... all

... not so much the facts  
... Watergate, disturbing as  
... they are, but the attitudes  
... atmosphere that made  
... Watergate possible, and the  
... deceptive manipulations and  
... inconsistent testimony of the  
... case that perpendate the  
... courts and the press.

... His confidence problem,  
... which is clear in the popu-  
... larity polls and which he has  
... not yet faced, was defined  
... long ago by Homer:  
... "For I hold that man as  
... hateful as the gates of Hell,  
... "who says one thing, while  
... another in his heart lies hid-  
... den well."

He lives under the domi-  
on of fear. As he sees it, the  
world, the Congress, the  
courts, the press are all  
against him.

He feels that in the his  
own national security, and  
that are suspect and have  
to be begged, and now he  
reported that he even had  
his own brother follow and  
were tapped by the Secret  
Service.

The interesting thing  
about this is why, with 3 1/2 years to go  
and with all his problems,  
he keeps on protesting the  
independence, freedom and  
integrity of the Congress,  
the courts and the press,  
and then in sees with them,  
defies them and blames  
them for his agencies and in-  
sists on his and on three or  
four fronts at the same time.

For almost everybody in  
Washington, it's a bore to  
keep on psychoanalyzing  
these strange actions of the  
President - his restless  
movements (from Camp  
David to Florida to San  
Clemente, his long absences  
and disappearances, and  
then his sudden announcements  
and defiant proclamations.

... what is the heart of the  
President's confidence prob-

... not so much the facts  
of Watergate, disturbing as  
they are, but the attitudes  
and atmosphere that made  
Watergate possible, and the  
deceptive manipulations and  
inconsistent testimony of the  
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Mike Mansfield in the Sen-  
ate and Thomas (D) in  
well as the House, the de-  
mocratic and... have been  
... and... have been  
... and... have been  
... and... have been

... the President has  
... to Washington  
telling the Congress to share  
in

... We have had this year,"  
he told the press, "as far as  
... is concerned, a di-



rest of  
initially  
to estimate

like a  
pyramid

...and...  
...no...  
...I'd...  
...with your...  
...reason...  
...I'd...  
...and inability...  
...unnecessary fights...  
...something unmistakably...  
...is apart from the...  
...sense...  
...and imitations, then to attack