

Eisenhower held Nixon in such low esteem after his first term as Vice President he almost dumped him from the ticket. He asked him to leave the office of succession, one that seemed more than usually likely to make the Vice President President, given Eisenhower's age and his heart attack, for any cabinet post of Nixon's selection except State. Despite Nixon's expressed belief that foreign affairs is his forte, Eisenhower, after four years of observation of Nixon and his capabilities, felt otherwise and would not entrust foreign affairs to him. This was one of Nixon's many crises. He met it with ~~such~~ anger. ~~that~~ His threat to "quit public life in disgust" would, had he done it, have seriously jeopardized Eisenhower's chances, especially because of that heart attack. So, regardless of his likes, dislikes and preferences, Ike had no choice. He backed down.

~~(Post 9/23/73, quoting Maze and Hess, Nixon's biographers.)~~