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One of Nixon's Biggest Problems



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LATE AT NIGHT, as Richard Nixon sleeps, he occasionally has a peculiar experience. "I have a feeling," he has told friends, "that I have something to tell the President. Then I suddenly shake myself awake and realize I am the President."

Few can blame Mr. Nixon if he sometimes must pinch himself to make sure his conquest of the White House hasn't been all a dream. Only a decade ago, after all, he lost the governorship of California and announced bitterly that he was through with politics. He even signed a pledge to his wife that he would never run for office again.

But it was a promise he couldn't keep. Now, after his first term in the White House, Mr. Nixon appears to be headed for the most smashing Republican victory of the century.

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GOP strategists confide, indeed, that only one major obstacle lies in the way of a Nixon landslide in November. Not the economy, not the war. It's Mr. Nixon's robot-like personality.

The President, with his sloping nose, jowls that he seems to rearrange like putty to project a mood, his tendency to sweat under the hot TV lights and his marionette hand gestures, is not particularly appealing to the voters.

His campaign managers, therefore, have hired Wolper Productions, one of the best documentary film firms in the busi-

ness, to humanize Richard Nixon on film at the Republican convention.

But what is the real Nixon like? He is a very private person who once said: "You can't confide in anyone about your personal plans, your personal feelings."

The private Nixon, we have learned from intimates, is a warm, shy, sensitive man who could easily wake up wondering whether he was President.

He is a devoted family man, who permits his daughters to intrude freely upon the presidency. Not long ago, Mr. Nixon was deep in a foreign policy discussion with his top advisers when the phone rang. He spent several minutes on the phone carefully explaining a Vietnam problem.

"That was Julie," said the President after he hung up.

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THE PRESIDENT dislikes personal confrontation, hates to ask favors of people and almost never applies political pressure. He leaves this to others less soft-hearted.

Remarkably self-disciplined, he seldom shows anger. Then it is usually a cold, frowning anger, not the lava-like outbursts of former President Lyndon Johnson.

Mr. Nixon has an extremely orderly mind. He has even set aside Wednesdays as the day for serious thinking. On Wednesdays, he keeps his calendar relatively free of appointments to allow time to meditate and ponder and study.