

Is Dick Going to Peking Too Early?



Arthur Hoppe

THE RIGHT WING, which always felt Mr. Nixon showed promise, is growing increasingly furious with him.

First it was his no-win policy in Vietnam. Then it was his welfare reform program. And now, of course, it's his forthcoming trip to China.

"Treason!" cried my old friend, Miss Amanda, stomping in on her tennis-shoed feet. "That Tricky Dick has sold out the future of the country to those yellow Red Chinese!"

To prove it, she drew a batch of clippings from her reticule — all recent articles by experts saying Mr. Nixon's chances for re-election may well hang on the success or failure of his meeting with the communist leaders.

"See!" crowed Miss Amanda triumphantly. "He's letting Mao Tse-whatsisname decide who'll be the next President of the United States! And one thing about those Chinese, they're un-American!"

Good heavens, for once it seems Miss Amanda is right! Is Mr. Nixon out of his mind? How could he have placed his future and that of the country in the hands of those who have been his bitterest enemies for more than 25 years?

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SCENE: The Peking Airport. Mr. Nixon, looking very dignified, steps from his plane. Waiting to greet him are Mao Tse-tung and Chou En-lai, both trying, without much luck, to look inscrutable. What they look is eager.

Mr. Nixon: Hi! Hi, there, fellows, Let me be perfectly candid about this. It sure is swell of you to invite me over to your place after I've been calling you bloody-handed power-mad tyrants for the past 25 years. But no hard feelings, eh?

Mao (smiling): Do you think we're sore-heads? It would make just as much sense if we were mad at you for supporting the boycott of our goods . . .

Chou (also smiling): Or the killing of our soldiers in North Korea . . .

Mao: Or keeping us out of the U.N. for years . . .

Chou: Or trying to get Chiang Kai-shek to overthrow us so he could chop off our heads.

Mr. Nixon: Chiang who? Gosh, I've forgotten him already. Well, I'm glad by gones are, ha, ha, by gones.

Mao (casually): And now, if you'll step forward, we'd like to present you with a token of our appreciation for all you've done for us.

Mr. Nixon (sticking out his hand): Golly, fellows, it sure is decent of you to . . .

Mao (gleefully): Okay, Chou, let him have it!

So — pow! — Chou lets him have it in the choppers with a Chinese custard pie. And — splat! — Mao beats him over the head with a bladder. And — wham! — they both kick him in the . . .

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ENOUGH! Let us dwell no longer on this disgraceful scene. It's all too easy to envision what will happen next. What will happen next is that Mr. Nixon will fly home and make a speech to the American people:

"My fellow Americans, if it were just Dick Nixon the Chinese kicked around, it wouldn't matter a bit. Dick Nixon is used to being kicked around. But they chose, rightly or wrongly, to humiliate your President. They have humiliated America! And so I ask you to rally around your President . . ."

Well, needless to say, Mr. Nixon will be re-elected in a landslide.

On the other hand, come to think of it, if the Chinese treat Mr. Nixon kindly, he'll come home and run as the candidate who achieved peace in our time. So either way, his chances of re-election will be enhanced.

It just shows you how paranoid the Right Wing is to go around asking why Mr. Nixon has sold out to the Chinese communists. The question they should be asking is why the Chinese communists want to help get him re-elected.