

Anger at Nixon Sparks Film

Emile De Antonio, a maker of documentary films including "Point of Order," has a new picture, "Millhouse" which will obviously overshadow all the others. Already it is playing in two theaters in New York City, unheard of for a documentary.



"I was working on a film about American contemporary painters, men who are my friends. Suddenly I was made aware of an opportunity to acquire a tremendous amount of material on Richard Nixon. I've been angry at Mr. Nixon and his rhetoric for a long time," he said here recently.

The result will be shown tonight at 9:45 at the Film Festival at the Palace of Fine Arts, and will open tomorrow at the Presidio.

PROVERB

"There is an Italian proverb 'Revenge is a dish best eaten cold' which guided me," he continued. "I'm sympathetic to certain aspects. I love America and I know the Horatio Alger Jr. tradition, which in a way the President demonstrated. But I'm opposed to policies which are insanely off the track, leading to different kinds of disaster. A loss of moral posture in the U.S. is obvious. The materialists are so ambitious as to appear death-oriented. My Lai, Kent, and Attica are not isolated cases."

De Antonio admits he talks rapidly, which he does, but he covers a lot of ground. "Mr. Nixon," he said, "has a deeply conservative nature and the aspirations of rich people. He is an invented personality. For 20 years he held a hard line on China, then by his recent reversal revealed the most callous pragmatism, all the while demonstrating indifference to the lives of the American people."

FOOTAGE

"His rhetoric is so inflated that there is a vast desert be-

EMILE DE ANTONIO Off-track

tween what he says, and the truth."

Almost all of De Antonio's footage came from television networks, some of it "was ripped off by young kids sympathizing with the picture. But even networks sell stolen footage to buyers." The Checkers speech, he states, "was the hardest to get. We show how he changed from 1952-1968. But I'd vote for Nixon before I'd vote for Lindsay. Lindsay is a total phony, but he's the best campaigner in politics today, and he's got the best technical team working with him."

De Antonio has been accused of making an unfairly one-sided case in "Millhouse."

"Tom Luddy expressed it best when he said that at the outset I show Nixon as a wax dummy, indicating that in my picture there is no pretense to objectivity. You know immediately it will be hostile to what Nixon stands for. If you have passionate feelings, it's impossible to be objective. Someone else said, and I agree, 'Only God is objective, and he doesn't make films.'"

P.K.

"ALL-TALKING, ALL-SINGING, ALL-DANCING, ALL-NIXON!"

The movie mocks everything that Nixon stands for, employing the ultimate strategic weapon, laughter!"

—Nolan, Boston Globe

"Brilliant, and in Norman Mailer's phrase, Very Spooky! It is as implacable as 'An American Tragedy,' as mysterious as 'You Can't Go Home Again,' as funny as 'Why Are We in Viet Nam?' and as banal as 'Main Street!'"

—Canby, N.Y. Times

"Nothing so comically grotesque as Nixon's transformation into a President has happened since Kafka's hero turned into a cockroach; 'Millhouse' faithfully records that horrible American metamorphosis!"

—Philip Roth

"A zapped portrait of Nixon from Voorhis to Viet Nam: part camp, part Horatio Alger run amuck—the dark side of the American dream!"

—Jules Feiffer

"If by chance Nixon sees this film, he will kick himself once more!"

—Wash., D.C. Star



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