

# Nixon's Visits to Doctor Recalled

By Jack Anderson

If the Republicans start a whispering campaign about Democratic vice presidential candidate Tom Eagleton's past psychiatric problems, the Democrats are prepared to raise questions about President Nixon's own visits to a psychotherapist.

It may be useful, therefore, to set forth the available facts.

In 1952, Richard Nixon began calling at Dr. Arnold Hutschnecker's office in a post Park Avenue building in New York City. A number of witnesses, including newspaper columnist Harriet Van Horn, recall seeing him visit the doctor up to the early 1960s.

Dr. Hutschnecker, educated in Berlin and trained as an internist, came to the U.S. in 1936. By the early 1950s, his interest had shifted to psychosomatic medicine. In 1951, he published a book on psychosomatic illness called "The Will to Live."

On Oct. 29, 1968, the late Drew Pearson telephoned Dr. Hutschnecker about 10 a.m., and asked him about his celebrated patient.

As Pearson later related it: "I told the doctor I understood he had been giving Mr. Nixon psychiatric treatments . . . Dr. Hutschnecker confirmed that he had treated Mr. Nixon, said that it was a delicate matter and that he was reluctant to talk about it. He

had a patient with him, he said, and asked me to call back at 4 p.m."

During the interim, Mr. Nixon's communications director, Herb Klein, was called. Pearson's subsequent call to Hutschnecker brought the response that the doctor had treated Mr. Nixon briefly on a matter of internal medicine.

Pearson decided not to write the story but, after the election, revealed the details in a National Press Club speech. Presidential press secretary Ron Zeigler responded: "It's totally untrue, of course."

## Nixon's Treatment

An unnamed source close to Mr. Nixon told The New York Times that the then-Vice President, exhausted after a foreign trip, went to Dr. Hutschnecker for treatment and was given "some pills."

Miss Van Horn's recollections were a bit more precise. "When I lived next door to Dr. Hutschnecker," she said, "I occasionally saw (Nixon's) grim visage passing under the next canopy. Nagged by the curiosity that nags all journalists, I once asked a building employee, 'Does Mr. Nixon visit friends at 829?'"

"'Naw,' came the reply, 'he comes to see the shrink.'"

Later, Dr. Hutschnecker made this additional comment on Mr. Nixon's mental health: "During the entire period that I treated Mr. Nixon, I detected

no sign of mental illness in him. As I came to know him over the years, we developed a trusting professional as well as amicable personal relationship . . .

"He always impressed me as a man with superior intellect and keen perception. He was an intense listener, and he would ask questions aimed directly at the heart of the matter . . .

"After his election as President, I felt confirmed in my belief, which I had expressed in a casual discussion back in 1955, that Richard Nixon had not only the strength but the imagination and clarity of goal that I thought were prerequisites for a successful leader.

"I felt this in spite of the critical references that had been made to Mr. Nixon's emotional encounter with the press in 1962, after his unsuccessful race for governor of California.

"I believe it is one thing for a man to suffer a personal defeat that seems to end all hopes for his political future and to react to it emotionally. But it is quite another thing for a man in a position of power to be confronted with a crisis that is impersonal and therefore does not have the same emotional impact . . . The first incident involved Mr. Nixon's subjective reaction to a personal traumatic experience . . ."

Picture Hanging — Peace

Corps director Joe Blatchford has stood by while his programs for overseas poor were cut back. But he has taken a firm stand when it comes to his own domestic luxury. So eager was he to get the precise soigne touch to pictures hung in his handsome home that he ordered Peace Corps graphics expert, Don Taylor, to do the job. Blatchford had his personal car and chauffeur whisk Taylor to his Alexandria, Va., residence to hang the pictures just right. Blatchford's office tried to claim the picture-hanging detail was to make Blatchford's house presentable for official entertaining.

**Lethal Dose** — Narcotics agents are turning up a new mixture of dangerous narcotics on America's streets. The mix, sold in plastic bags, is a heavy jolt of cocaine and a small amount of heroin. The drowsy effects of heroin combine with the "kick" of cocaine to give what is called an "up and out" effect. Unfortunately for the users, the mixture can be a permanent "out." By putting the body under the strain of opposing effects, the blend multiplies the dangers of death by overdose.

**Inhumane Rates** — The penny-pinching Post Office is trying to pare expenses by denying low mailing rates to nonprofit animal protection societies.