

from Editorial  
by Ronald P. Kriss

One of the more arresting features of Richard Nixon's greatest triumph is that it occurred ten years to the day after his worst defeat. ....

It was not, however, an unmitigated personal success. The turnout was one of the lowest in decades, with less than 55 per cent of the nation's 136 million eligible voters casting ballots. When more than 62 million people sit out an election, a certain lack of ardor is indicated. Moreover, it may well be that the great outpouring of votes for Nixon was less a vote of confidence in the man and his policies than a vote of nonconfidence in his opponent, less a recognition of his superb leadership than a vote for things as they are and for Nixon as custodian of the status quo.

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Well, the American public has given Richard Nixon leeway to spare, and now it remains to be seen what he will do with it. .... [Both his detractors and his admirers] assume that the real Richard Nixon will now stand up; both betray totally contrasting notions of who the real Richard Nixon is. That is not surprising. In spite of the fact that he has spent more than a quarter of a century in public life (or, perhaps, because of it, since politics prompts most men to fashion impenetrable masks for their protection and convenience), nobody seems

Saturday Review editorial

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to know the real Richard Nixon. If there is one.

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