

NIXON

A Look at Nixon Over the Years



Jack Anderson

DURING the summer of '36, Richard Nixon knew his grades at Duke Law School had slipped. He needed high grades to keep his scholarship, which paid the tuition he could never otherwise afford.

"I'm scared," he confided to an upper-classman.

Typically, Mr. Nixon studies hard. But he also broke into the Dean's office along with two rommates to find out their academic standing. A Duke Law School official told us such a break-in today would "surely" be grounds for disciplinary action and possible expulsion.

Mr. Nixon's accomplices were Fred Albrink, now a real estate lawyer in Norfolk, Va., and Bill Perdue, a corporate executive in New York City.

"We didn't steal anything," said Albrink. "We just wanted to find out our grades."

Mr. Nixon confirmed that he had dropped from his third-place class standing but had not lost his scholarship.

★ ★ ★

THE OPPORTUNITY to run for Congress came to Mr. Nixon while he was awaiting discharge from the Navy. He was a Navy lawyer renegotiating Navy contracts in Baltimore. He was so eager for a crack at Congress that he borrowed \$150 from the manager of the Erco Company, whose naval contract he was renegotiating, for the plane fare to California. Mr. Nixon won the Republican nomination and the Erco Company got a refund from the Navy.

By his own admission, Mr. Nixon ran a

"fighting, rocking, socking" campaign. He portrayed his Democratic opponent, Jerry Voorhis, a staunch anti-Communist, as "soft on Communism." Later Mr. Nixon used similar tactics in his race for the Senate against Helen Gahagan Douglas.

As the vice presidential nominee in 1952, Mr. Nixon threatened to use the red smear brush on the late Drew Pearson if he wrote a story about the \$18,000 slush fund businessmen had raised to pay Mr. Nixon's expenses while he was a Senator. The warning from Mr. Nixon was phoned to me by Bill Rogers, now Secretary of State, from the Nixon campaign train.

I passed the message to Pearson, who replied quietly: "All right, I'll change the story. I'll make it stronger."

★ ★ ★

BOTH MR. NIXON and his disciple, H.R. Haldeman, were denounced from the bench for their tactics in the 1962 campaign for the governorship of California. In a biting commentary on Mr. Nixon's political methods, the late Adlai Stevenson described "Nixonland" as a "land of slander and scare, of sly innuendo, of a poison pen, the anonymous phone call and hustling, pushing, shoving — the land of smash and grab and anything to win."

Out of this background, President Nixon set the style that led to the Watergate horror. However, we have spent several days talking to White House aides and Watergate investigators alike. We have also had access to the grand jury findings. At this writing, there is no evidence implicating the President in the Watergate crimes.