

From column by Joseph Alsop:

"John Ehrlichman was asked why on earth [Nixon] preferred his hedeaway in the Executive Office Building to [the] lovely, sunny [Oval Office] with a garden view.

"'It's odd,' said Ehrlichman in reply, 'but the truth is that the President hates to work with a window behind his desk.'"

As it happens, hating to work with a window behind your desk is a classic symptom of mild agoraphobia. Agoraphobia, of course, is the opposite of claustrophobia, being an obsessive dislike of large crowds and wide open spaces. For anyone with mild agoraphobia to be a highly successful politician must in fact have required astonishing self-discipline.

But that is the kind of President we have, as is also proven by Richard M. Nixon's extreme reclusiveness and many other signs as well.... "