

The Nixon Watch:
Out in the Open

by John Osborne

San Clemente - Since the President was last reported upon in this space, he has made a televised spectacle of himself in New Orleans. [20 Aug 73.]

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When he saw reporters and cameramen closer to him than he wanted or had expected them to be, he lunged at Press Secretary Ronald Ziegler and snarled at him and shoved him. During his VFW speech, the President slurred a distressing number of his words. Reporters who have been observing him for years thought they saw something indefinably but unmistakably odd in his gait and his gestures. Some of them thought that he was drunk. None of them, so far as I know, was sure enough of that impression to report or even suggest it in published and broadcast accounts. Because the impression was so much a feature in the remembered scene, I report it without apology.

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