

Nixon Likes Daley



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THE PREVAILING political lore has Richard Nixon and Richard Daley written down as mortal enemies. According to Republican gospel, the Chicago mayor was to blame for Nixon's presidential loss in 1960.

As knowledgeable Republicans tell it, Daley "stole" the 1960 election from Nixon by stuffing the ballot boxes for John F. Kennedy in greater Chicago. This supposedly cost Nixon the crucial votes that lost Illinois and, thereby, the nation.

But whatever sleight-of-hand Daley may have executed with the 1960 ballot count, the former President doesn't hold it against him. We have the word of witnesses who heard Nixon say so.

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NOT EVEN the men around Nixon knew how their boss felt about Daley until the Saturday after the 1970 congressional elections. They were gathered at the Key Biscayne, Fla., presidential retreat for a political post-mortem.

It was a back-stabbing session, with the likes of H. R. Haldeman, John Ehrlichman, Charles Colson and John Mitchell proposing appropriate punishments for their political enemies.

Mitchell brought up Daley's name. The time for retribution had come, he suggested, for the 1960 transgression. As attorney general, Mitchell promised happily that the mayor would be "cut to shreds" by a Justice Department investigation.

Obviously, Mitchell expected an approving comment from the President. But there was dead silence; Nixon was impassive. The conversation started to move uneasily to another subject.

Then Nixon spoke. Witnesses recall his emphatic words. He said: "Dick Daley always met me when I came to Chicago. In 1968, he rode in from the airport with me. Oh, he's a brass-collared Democrat. But he's a patriot. He has always supported me whenever the country was at stake, and I don't care if he's a Democrat or a Republican, I like him."

It is a matter of record that the Justice Department ripped into the Daley political machine. But "hizzoner" for some reason, was never touched.

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TAINTED TRANSCRIPTS: The House intelligence committee is now investigating our charges that inaccurate FBI transcripts have jeopardized the rights of the accused in federal prosecutions.

Chairman Otis Pike (Dem-N.Y.), has sent two lawyers, Tim Oliphant and Dick Vermeire, to examine over 100 pages of transcripts, which the FBI has stamped as "Evidence" in criminal investigations.

We have already checked these transcripts against the original tapes. We found more than 30,000 errors, many of them serious. Working with us was Washington's celebrated private eye, Dick Bast, who is now assisting the congressional attorneys.