

John Ehrlichman: "... Let him (Gray) twist slow-Photo from the book

ly, slowly in the wind

tichard of Watergate

Laurence Stern Reviewed by

on the national staff of The Washington Post. The reviewer is a reporter

speare. the event was memorialized Bosworth Field and the time lost his horse and crown at A full century elapsed be-tween the day Richard III in literature by Shake-

cle with commentary. been a Watergate coloring book, Watergate doggerel, a now only in its second year and the flow of Watergate pears a photographic chroniical analysis. Now there aprious effort at instant historbedside Watergate and a seon the market. There has threatens to become a glut literary enterprise already The Nixon dammerung is

tougher things got Richard III is such an incomparison.

they (though it was two missing princes rather than two suppression displayed a deft hand at

tailored testimony. gled evidence and lawyerin a tangle of perjury, manemerged fully, still obscured end may be near it is not in sight. The villainies, such as Of Richard Nixon it can only be said that the story is not yet complete. While the missing tapes). were, have

man to jump ship. He stayed cooler he got. He was not a thrived on crisis and also the course and fought. of evidence slowly in the wind.)". gate, such as John Ehrlichman on L. Patrick Gray III ("... Let him twist slowly,

tragic stature since the operative flaw was ours (the Nixon can properly claim electorate's), not his. Watergate; let the purists argue whether Richard embedded in the events of The stuff of high drama is

writes, "is a unique scandal as Shannon Book World

involved outsiders trying to

ernment with money or vacorrupt members of the govlier political scandals that It differs in kind from ear-

Watergate and the American People. By William V. THEY COULD NOT TRUST THE KING: Nixon, Shannon

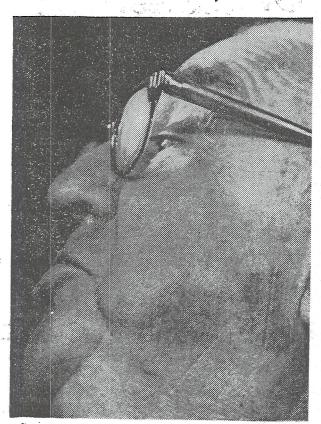
(Collier/Macmillan, 199 pp. \$4.95) in the metrics and imagery of the Tragedy of Waterfound a certain succulence Shakespeare would not have Still, one wonders if conspiracy but I would quesconspiracy by insiders to crush their political opposiselves in power . . . " tion and maintain themluable gifts. Instead it is a Watergate surely was a

precedented scale. had been expanded to un-Nixon assumed the office methods. The powers of the was in the concept or the tion whether its uniqueness tive branch when Richard presidency and the execu-

gence surveillance program tralized domestic intellisessed as he was with nain the President's effort, obunrest, to establish a centional security and political This was best exemplified

See BOOKS, B9, Col. 4

"enemies lists" upon which coupled



Sen. Sam Ervin . . . and Watergate through the prism of the Senate Watergate Committee hearings.

BOOKS, From B1

the power of the state would be targeted.

It would be unfair to the incumbent President, however, to ignore the tendencies toward secret surveillance and governmental criminality carried out in the name of national security during preceding administrations. J. Edgar Hoover's anti-subversive operations during the late 1960s presumed an enemies list too and for sheer disregard of due process rivaled many of Watergate's national security excesses.

The underlying issue of Watergate is, in my opinion, the emerging profile of a national security state that threatens to break the bonds of constitutional restraint that defines our public freedoms. This is a process that began long before Watergate I was carried out in the Nixon administration which, it becomes evident, had so little to fear.

This book tries to tell the story of Watergate through

the prism of the Senate Watergate Committee hearings in the words of the witnesses and their unsparingly photographed faces. The one face that is missing is that of the President, who is at the center of the vortex.

But Watergate is essentially a drama of the Amreican presidency and the unprecedented concentration of state power that lies at his fingertips ("I can walk into my office, pick up the telephone and in 20 minutes 70-million people will be dead," Mr. Nixon told an audience of southern Democratic congressmen at a

White House dinner last Nov. 15.). As for the President him-

As for the President himself and the emotional furies that must be besieging him at this moment, little is known as he shrinks further and further away from public visibility.

When Shakespeare's Richard III emerged on the stage he had been turned into a villainous caricature in the fish-eye lens of Tudor hatred toward him. The definitive book about Watergate and Richard Nixon will have to wait several years, but let us hope it will be in this century.