

# The Seven Crises Of Richard M. Nixon

## THE HISS CASE

... On that evening of August 5, as I reviewed Hiss' testimony, I realized that this case presented a crisis infinitely greater and more complex than anything I had faced running for Congress in 1946 — Aug. 5, 1948



## THE FUND

As I waited for them, I knew that if the reports with regard to the Herald Tribune were accurate, I had been hit by a real blockbuster, I had firmly believed up to this time that since the attack was strictly partisan and would not stand up on its merits, our strategy of continuing to play it down would not pay off and it would be forgotten within a few days. I still believe this would have been the case had the attack continued to come from only Democrats and from newspapers which were opposed to Eisenhower as well as to me. But when Republicans as well as Democrats began to demand my scalp, the roof caved in. — September, 1952

### THE HEART ATTACK

"Dick," said a familiar voice, "this is Jim Haggerty—the President has had a coronary."

... This was far different from any other crisis had faced in my life and had to be handled differently. I had always believed in meeting a crisis headon. The difficult period is reaching a decision, but once that has been done, the carrying-out of the decision is easier than the making of it. In meeting any crisis in life, one must either fight or run away. But one must do something. Not knowing how to act or not being able to act is what tears your insides out."

— Sept. 24, 1955

### CARACAS

It was past 2 a.m. when I finally turned out the light and tried to get some sleep. I had only eight hours in which to decide whether or not to keep the appointment at San Marcos. Whether, in effect, to fight or run away from this crisis which had implications far beyond my personal safety. I slept very little that night. I could feel the tension building up. Outside the hotel, I could hear the chants of mob swirling around the hotel, "Fuera Nixon, Fuera Nixon, Fuera Nixon."

As I tossed in bed, I knew from previous experience that this necessary period of indecision was far more wearing than tomorrow's activities would be, no matter which way I decided. This was part of the crisis syndrome as I knew it. — May, 1958



### DEBATING KHRUSHCHEV

Now we were going at it toe-to-toe. To some, it may have looked as though we had both lost our tempers. But exactly the opposite was true. I had full and complete control of my temper and was aware of it. I knew the value of keeping cool in a crisis, and what I said and how I said it was done with as much calm and deliberation as I could muster in a running, impromptu debate with an expert. — July, 1959

### 1960 CAMPAIGN

... It was now almost midnight. In fifteen minutes I would have to go downstairs alone to the Ambassador ballroom and speak . . . I thought back over other crisis which had confronted me as I prepared for speeches or key press conferences: the fund speech in 1952; my White House press conference after the President's stroke in 1957; trying to hold my temper as I met the press in Lima and Caracas after the riots there in 1958; those tense moments when Khrushchev had verbally assaulted me at the American Exhibition in Moscow and I had a split-second to decide whether to remain silent, to retreat, or to fight back.

But this was the greatest test of all. How could I be gracious, and yet not concede outright?—Nov. 8, 1960

### WATERGATE

Nixon: How much money do you need?

Dean: I would say these people are going to cost a million dollars over the next two years.

Nixon: We could get that. On the money, if you need the money you could get that. You could get a million dollars. You could get it in cash. I know where it could be gotten. It is not easy, but it could be done. But the question is who the hell would handle it? Any ideas on that? — March 21, 1973