

# A Tiny G.O.P. Bastion Feels Loss and Relief

NY  
8-9-73

NYTimes

By PRANAY GUPTA AUG 9 1974

Special to The New York Times

SHELTER ISLAND, L.I., Aug. 8—Six years after he put it on his car, Evans K. Griffing sadly stripped off his bold, red-lettered bumper sticker today — the one that said "NIXON."

Mr. Griffing felt a sense of loss. So did hundreds of people in this conservative community 100 miles east of New York City.

In 1968 and 1972, Suffolk County gave Richard M. Nixon the largest single election plurality of any county in the United States. Today all that was changed on Shelter Island.

As the hour of the President's resignation announcement approached, many islanders expressed both a feeling of hurt at having been "betrayed" by Mr. Nixon and relief that he was leaving office.

"We tried to stay by him till the very end," said Thomas L. Jernick, the Town Supervisor. "But when he disclosed on Monday that he had covered

up his role in Watergate, we couldn't support him any more. He lied to us, and for a President of the United States to lie is inexcusable."

"We really believed in Mr. Nixon" was a phrase used again and again by dozens of islanders today.

At the same time they spoke hopefully of the Ford Administration and of moving urgently to tasks long neglected—ending the nation's political turmoil and easing its economic distress.

Shelter Island has 1,800 year-round residents, most of whom are registered Republicans.

Only last June interviews with islanders indicated that whatever else Watergate had done, it apparently had not diluted Shelter Island's faith in Mr. Nixon. People said at the time that they felt the President was being vilified by the media

Continued on Page 7, Column 6

Continued From Page 1, Col. 5

and by his political enemies.

"We really believed in our President; we feel terribly let down," Franklin Hallock, a real-estate dealer, said today. "I'm a very loyal person by nature but now . . ."

"Do you know what bothers me very much? The fact that he actually let his daughters go out and insist he was innocent, that he knew nothing about Watergate. What sort of a man would hide things from his daughters and let them go out and defend him? The country would be well served when he resigns."

Virginia Jehnick, the Supervisor wife, disagreed with her husband and Mr. Hallock.

"He's a good man," she said of Mr. Nixon. "He is just the unlucky victim of circumstances. To those who attack him I say, 'Watch out,' because everybody lives in a glass house."

There was general agreement on Shelter Island that whatever Mr. Nixon's faults, he had acquitted himself well in foreign affairs. Skip Tuttle, a young man who owns a marina, and Mr. Hallock agreed that the President would be remembered for ending the war in Vietnam and opening the door to mainland China.

"That's why I am sad," Supervisor Jernick said. "He did so much for his country, and now his name has gone down the drain."

Ed Hannabury, who owns the Ospray Restaurant and who once was the Police Commissioner here, said: "If only the President had surrounded himself more with men like Kis-