

Parade 9/10/73

MORAL SQUALOR Surely the President of the United States is entitled to hire anyone he likes to help him in the almost superhuman task of running this government.

It might be useful, however, to ascertain beforehand whether any individual to be employed in a major governmental position is basically a man of good will or a dedicated fanatic pickled in the vinegar of his own hate and anger.

It is frightening to read the transcripts of the Watergate testimony and the newspaper accounts pertinent thereto and find John Ehrlichman saying of Pat Gray, "Let him twist slowly, slowly in the wind." Or read that if John Mitchell had his druthers, he would line up a group of the Watergate scoundrels on the White House lawn "and would have had them all shot." Or read John Dean's recommendation that the Nixon Administration study "how we can use the available federal machinery to screw our political enemies."

It is appalling to read that Charles Colson, once the President's Special Counsel, "would walk over my grandmother if necessary" to prove his loyalty to the cause of the President's re-election. Or that Bob Haldeman equated dissent with treachery and wanted as late as Feb. 10, 1973, long after the President had been re-elected "to get our people to put out the story on the foreign or Communist money that was used in support of demonstrations against the President in 1972."

It is shocking to read that Alexander Butterfield,

the former aide to Haldeman who revealed the installation of bugging devices in the White House, the Executive Office Building and Camp David, said of Ernest Fitzgerald, who honestly told the Congress of the huge cost overruns on the C-5A, "We should let him bleed for a while."

One wonders about such men and their lack of morality, their abuse of power, and their manifestations of deformed personality in the recommendation of revenge, punishment and dirty tricks.

Perhaps a thorough psychiatric examination should become a prerequisite for holding high government office.