

Sunday
Buchwald
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Art Buchwald

The New New Nixon

Washington—We've had an Old Nixon and a New Nixon, and Monday night on nationwide television we saw a New New Nixon. How the New New Nixon came to be President is a very interesting story.

Back in January, 1972, the New Nixon was engaged in working out the details of the Vietnam cease-fire and solving difficult problems with Red China and the Soviet Union. Because the duties of the Presidency consumed so much of his time, he turned over his reelection campaign to the Old Nixon, who at the time was unemployed and needed the work.

On June 17, while the New Nixon was in Florida resting up from his trip to Moscow, he received word of the Watergate break-in. He was appalled at this senseless, illegal action and was shocked to learn that employees of the Committee for the Re-Election of the President were involved.

The first thing he did was to call the Old Nixon and order an immediate investigation to find out who was responsible.

The Old Nixon promised the President that he would leave no stone unturned in rooting out the people who were involved in this sordid affair.

As the weeks went by, The Washington Post and other newspapers started writing that people in the White House were involved in the Watergate. The President called in the Old Nixon and asked him what he knew about it.

The Old Nixon replied, "It is rotten journalism, hearsay and mudslinging at its worst. I have talked to John Dean III, Charles Colson, John Mitchell, Jeb Magruder, H. R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman and they have assured me that no one in a position of any responsibility had anything to do with the Watergate. I also have seen Pat Gray's FBI files and everyone is clean."

The New Nixon breathed a sigh of relief, but he gave further instructions to the Old Nixon. "I don't want a whitewash. The chips must fall where they may."

"Yessir."

On March 21, the President received new information implicating members of his own White House family. This

information shocked and appalled the New Nixon because the White House was a sacred trust.

He called in the Old Nixon and demanded his resignation.

"I'm not going to be the scapegoat," the Old Nixon shouted. "If I go I'm going to involve a lot of other people. This whole Watergate mess wasn't my idea, and I'm going to name names."

The New Nixon told the Old Nixon he could stay on. Then the New Nixon went to Camp David to think about what he should do. He knew he had to get rid of the Old Nixon. However, he was hoping to save Ehrlichman and Haldeman.

But the pressure was too great, and a group of highly influential Republicans flew in secretly to see him. They told him he would not only have to get rid of the Old Nixon, Kleindienst, John Dean III, Ehrlichman and Haldeman but he would also have to go himself.

The New Nixon couldn't believe it. "I haven't been accused of anything."

One of the Republican leaders said, "In matters as sensitive as guarding the integrity of our democratic process, it is essential that the public have total confidence in the President of the United States. While you are probably innocent, you were in the White House when all this took place."

"But who will replace me?"

The door opened and in walked the New New Nixon. "I'm sorry about this, Dick," the New New Nixon said, "but the country comes first."

The New New Nixon sat down in the President's chair and started dictating the speech he gave Monday night.

As the New Nixon left the room, the New New Nixon told a friend, "This is the most difficult decision I've ever had to make."