Predictably unpredictable, Nixon makes promising start

that his first major decision after win-ning a spectacular "Middle America" NEW YORK — The one predictable thing about Richard Nixon is that he is Who, for example, could have guessed unpredictable. The man loves a surprise.

ames Reston

election victory, would have been to appoint three Harvard men to his new second term cabinet?

of Massachusetts, lecturer at the Hargressive man, Sen. Leverett Saltonstali sensible establishment man of peace sachusetts; assistant to that gentle promost arrogantly patrician. American type: handsome, ambitious, alretary of HEW, but certainly no middle former undersecretary of State and secvard Law School; a Boston Brahmin, a tice Felix Frankfurter; Lt. Gov. of Mas-'47; law clerk to Learned Hand and Jus-Richardson, Harvard '41; Harvard law As secretary of defense, Elliot Lee

conservative Republican, who now has to preside over cutting back the Nixon h a n d s o m e, sophisticated, moderately HEW budget. ment and Budget in the White House: a area, director of the Office of Manageper columnist in the San Francisco Bay MacArthur's intelligence staff, newspa-Arthur Schlesinger, magna cum laude, 1938 Harvard classmate and friend of Welfare, Casper Willard Weinberger Kappa, finance director for Gov. Ronald Harvard Law School, 1941, Phi Beta Reagan of California, member of Gen. As secretary of Health, Education and

highest honors in 1947. ter out of California, who never went to efficiency expert, Horatio Alger characfacturer, president of Litton Industries Harvard Business School in Boston with undergraduate college but came out of Roy Lawrence Ash, electronics manu-

Still, there is something very logical in

all this illogic. It is the theme and conreers out of doing the unexpected. one of the great American political catradiction of Nixon's life. He has made

an anti-Communist hawk, and won and since Lazarus. He lost the Presidency as commodation with the Communists. retained it as a man of peace and actics, he made the greatest comeback and announcing his retirement from polithe governorship of California in 1962, After losing the Presidency in 1960 and

Generous to critics

not been defending his White House staff, but insisting that it is too big and to his allies in the last election. He has almost more generous to his critics than has to be cut back. And in the last few days, he has been

He has not been arguing for his "win-ning team" of the last four years, but Congress and the people. and for a new and more powerful cabicalling for a new team, for new changes, net, which would be responsible to the

music hall plumes, but now he is retreating from the majesty of the White House and the formality of the Oval Room into the informality of his Camp seemed to be turning the White House David retreat high in the Maryland into a palace, with uniformed guards in mountains. For a time in his first term, he

A reassuring approach

The historians and psychiatrists of the future will probably be very interested in all this, but for the time being, his approach to his second term is reassuring. Whatever the past, he is now dealing with the future.

have to get new men, new ideas, new to get tired and soft, therefore, they history. Presidential second terms tend He is trying to deal with the lessons of

> vigor Landslide victories tend to bury has to think anew and change the questhe victorious president, therefore, he

overwhelmingly by his fellow-countrygoing to be re-elected - which now men. mous or vindictive if he was re-elected wondered whether he would be magnanimany of his most intimate supporters. and, what is more interesting, even seems a long time ago — both his critics Ever since it was clear that Nixon was

Generous, serene

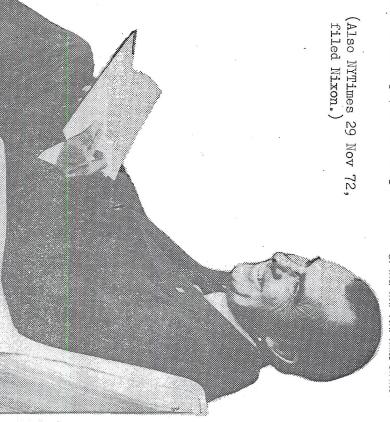
In his talk with the reporters at Camp David the other night, he was more gen-

erous, more composed and more serene remember. He seemed, almost for the stead of politics, and this could be first time, to be thinking of history inthan any of his contemporaries can ever

gin a new chapter in American politics, if his critics respond in an equally genera new spirit for a new accommodation at significant change.

For he has not been trusted in the past ous spirit. home, as he did with his adversaries in David, he seemed to be reaching out in Johnson; but in his little talk at Camp the tragedy of his predecessor, Lyndon Moscow and Feking. And this could bebecause he trusted no man, which was

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President Nixon: A new accommodation at home?