

Fuller column,  
WXPost, filed  
Watergate

## On Getting on The Enemy List



Jack Anderson

GETTING ON the White House enemy list has become the latest status symbol in Washington. I would have been disappointed if I hadn't made the list of top 20 enemies.

Rival politicians like Senators Ed Muskie and George McGovern used to be called opponents, not enemies. Celebrities like Gregory Peck and Bill Cosby, who have criticized President Nixon, used to be called critics, not enemies.

Now the White House lists them as "enemies," to be harassed through government investigations. Few private individuals can stand up against the awesome power of the federal government.

Yet the White House, according to the memos flushed out by the Watergate investigation, was determined to use this government power to "get" or "screw" political opponents.

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I BECAME aware months ago that the White House was seeking to discredit and, if possible, to destroy me. I decided finally that the best defense was to lay out the facts in the open. "The word has gone out from the White House," I wrote on February 7, "to 'nail' Jack Anderson."

I named staff chief H. R. Haldeman as the White House official behind the move. I described "Haldeman's cold, calculated hostility towards the press" and quoted a White House source as saying Haldeman

"has an absolutely evil attitude relative to the press."

More specifically, I wrote that "the word was passed to the Justice Department to try to make a case against us." This led to the abortive arrest of my associate Les Whitten. A federal grand jury, however, refused to indict him, and the Justice Department was forced to drop the charges.

White House press spokesman Ron Ziegler, with an unusual show of emotion, described as "wrong! wrong! wrong!" my charge that Haldeman was trying to nail us. Now the enemy lists and ugly memos out of the White House portray the true attitude of the men formerly around President Nixon.

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IT IS WORTH examining how I wound up on the White House enemy list. A review of my past columns shows I wrote dozens of favorable stories about President Nixon. But what landed me on the enemy list, apparently, was my access to unauthorized information embarrassing to the Nixon Administration.

Apparently this made me an enemy of the White House. Almost every public figure who criticized the President wound up on the enemy list.

But the existence of the enemy list is revealing, most of all, about the people in the White House. It shows they were suffering from a pathological paranoia.