

# ART HOPPE



## Mr. Nixon Goes to Hades

WASHINGTON, October 31, 1972 — President Nixon arrived home safely today from his historic trip to Hades and told a cheering airport throng:

"This has been the greatest week since The Creation."

Mr. Nixon stunned the country when he first announced his plans to visit Hades last May — shortly after his trips to China and Canada and prior to his journeys to Russia, Poland, Africa, Cuba, Greece and Antarctica this past summer.

At the time, the White House revealed that advance arrangements for the Hades trip had been secretly made by Dr. Henry Kissinger over a long weekend in April — a period when reporters were led to believe Dr. Kissinger was hidden away in a Jersey City motel with a Hollywood starlet.

After the Nation recovered from its initial shock, reaction to the President's announcement was widely favorable. Only a few Conservatives contended bitterly that Americans should have no truck with either Hades or Premier Beelzebub.

What surprised observers was that Mr. Nixon had built his political career on condemnations of Beelzebub and warnings to his fellow Americans not to be taken in by "the universal Hades conspiracy" and those "soft on devilishness."

Even his Democratic opponents were grudgingly forced to endorse the trip. But they were quick to point out that for years they had been urging Mr. Nixon to go there.

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AFTER ALL the furor, the seven-day visit itself was something of an anti-climax. It produced little hard news for the 1673 newsmen accompanying the Presidential party.

On their arrival behind The Fiery Curtain, Mr. and Mrs. Nixon were warmly received by Premier Beelzebub himself. "To be perfectly candid," the President said on shaking hands, "we expect no miracles." The Premier merely smiled.

At the welcoming banquet that night, the two leaders exchanged numerous toasts in firewater, the potent local drink.

"While we cannot close the gulf between us," the President said cautiously, "we can try to bridge it so that we may be able to talk across it."

The Premier, in turn, contented himself by quoting extensively from Scripture.

During the week, the two held numerous "serious and frank" discussions. Rumors that the Premier had offered his "whole-hearted support" of the American war effort in Vietnam were denied by Presidential aides.

The only outward result was the news Hades was contributing two griffins to The National Zoo in Washington. What the President gave in exchange was not revealed. But it was noted columnist Jack Anderson had been missing since his arrival with the press party.

Most of the time was spent in sight-seeing. Mrs. Nixon, after visits to the Devil's Workshop and Hell's Kitchen, declared: "I've eaten hellish food all over the world, but for deviled ham there's no place like Hades."

The President, on gazing into the lowest depths, said: "I think you would have to conclude this is a real H-e-double-toothpicks!"

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ON HIS return today, the President cautioned Americans not to set their hopes too high. "We have merely opened the door," he said. "And let me be quite frank about one thing," he added grimly, "I have made no secret deals of any kind with Premier Beelzebub."

Nevertheless, the experts now agree to the man that, as a result of the trip, Mr. Nixon will win next Tuesday's election in a landslide.