

See also Joseph Kraft, SFChronicle 12 Sep 72, this file.

To call Richard Nixon intellectual mocks the word, defies
the term

by Tom Braden

[In Life magazine (1 Sep 72) I read] Daniel Patrick Moynihan's plea to his fellow professors. "Nixon is an intellectual," he told them. He went on to explain that Nixon's aim for his country is precisely that of Adlai Stevenson's because like Stevenson, Nixon is trying to establish the political arena as "a center of civility and rational discourse open to all.

.....

..... To suggest that Richard Nixon is an intellectual, that the White House he runs is intellectually oriented or that his endeavor to keep peace in his country is modeled upon the forum ideas which Adlai Stevenson advocated is so gross a misrepresentation of this administration that it opens Mr. Moynihan to a charge of toadyism unbecoming an intellectual, even a self-proclaimed one.

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This is not to say that American presidents ought to be intellectuals or that intellectuals necessarily make good presidents. But nothing in the career of Richard Nixon suggests even that he understands the necessity for promoting that climate which leads to the discovery and dissemination of ideas and encourages creativity.