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Ford as the President: Some Hard Questions

by James D. Barber [author of "The Presidential Character:
Predicting Performance in the White
House"]

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Whatever Mr. Nixon's character ..., his style of operation has had a big hole in it.

In many ways a master speech-maker and at least from his Duke University days a steady student, he has trouble relating to people close-up; the White House transcripts make that abundantly clear.

No matter how many breakfasts with the Congressmen he holds, the ordinary give-and-take, the human connection that fosters compromise just isn't there. Watergate might not have happened if Mr. Nixon had learned the knack of listening at ease and dealing, directly and genuinely, with powerful friends and opponents.

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Article by Barber on presidential character, Saturday Review 23 Sep 72, this file.