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## *Psychological factor in political life*

One reason so-called "political" issues don't resolve themselves so easily is that many of them are not basically political at all, but psychological. And there is no accurate, objective, scientific way to measure and evaluate psychological factors in political life.

Like the nomination of Nelson Rockefeller for vice president. Is the man "qualified"? Assuredly he is, on the practical level; he may even be over-qualified.

Personally, I can't stand the man (hiyuh, fella!), and it has nothing to do with his politics, whatever they may be from year to year. The Old Right oppose him because he is "liberal," and the New Left oppose him because of Attica. I think these oppositions cancel each other out; he has been whatever he has found it expedient to be at any given moment.

It is considered somehow "unfair" to attack a public man on the personal level — but the personal level is precisely what is decisive in the way an office-holder approaches his job. Nixon was technically qualified to be President, in a professional sense; personally and morally he wasn't qualified to run a shelter for stray animals.

It is impossible to separate the character and temperament of a man from the competence he brings to his task; competence is most dangerous in a bad man.

I am not suggesting, or insinuating, that Rockefeller is a "bad" man in the sense that Nixon assuredly is one. But, in my view, he is a dangerous man in a different way — headstrong, stubborn, ambitious, imperious, militaristic, and dumber than anyone with his background and education has a right to be.

Most people who approve or disapprove of him do so because of their political perception of his position, but I don't happen to think that is nearly as important as his psychological makeup. His Attica blunder was less a political judgment than a shocking display of insensitivity and ignorance — and as obvious to morality as his testimony before the House committee, admitting that he hadn't realized how giving such large sums of money to his subordinates might unduly influence their behavior.

I think the American people are finally fed up with the political professionals — proficient as they might be — and are desperately looking for the old-fashioned thing called "character," regardless of which party it manifests itself in.