



Jack Anderson

THERE he was back in our living room, the same Richard Nixon as of old, with the unfortunate sloping nose, the marionette hand gestures and the awkward personality.

At times, we felt a twinge of sympathy for this lonely, suspicious man who had fought so hard for public approval and had been rebuffed so often. We caught an occasional glimpse beneath the psychological scar tissue at the deeply private Nixon, a shy, sensitive man.

His fall from the pinnacle into the black pit and the awful agony that followed, according to intimates, devastated the inner Nixon. Only the attentions of his wife, they told us, saved him from total collapse.

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WE HAVE NOW listened to him defend his record for six hours before the television cameras. His former aggressiveness and his harsh features have been softened by the ravages of time and tribulation. Yet he came across as the same dogged, dauntless Nixon we had known of yore.

There were the standard Nixon distortions. His predecessors had not, as he implied, misused the FBI and CIA the same as he did. In fact, the late FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover refused to carry out Nixon's illegal operations. This was the reason Nixon established the notorious White House plumbers.

Nor did he intervene in the India-Pakistan war to save West Pakistan, as

has claimed. He dispatched a naval task force into the Bay of Bengal, where India and Pakistan were fighting over Bangladesh. This is separated from West Pakistan by more than a thousand miles of the Indian subcontinent. To reach West Pakistan, this task force would have had to steam all the way around the tip of India into the Arabian Sea.

Contrary to the Nixon version of events, it was also Meade Alcorn who fired the unhappy Sherman Adams for President Eisenhower in 1958. And Nixon's claim that his Watergate conduct was not criminal but political is disputed by a 19-0 vote of the Watergate grand jury, and unanimous statement by the House impeachment panel.

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THIS GOES to the heart of the Watergate horror. Nixon looked upon himself as the sovereign, who was above the law. This is the Nixon who tried to bring pomp and flourish to the White House, who wanted to dress up the White House police in gaudy, Gilbert-and-Sullivan uniforms.

As the sovereign, Nixon felt he couldn't violate the law because he was the law. Extralegal and illegal operations became legal, therefore, if he sanctioned them.

When Nixon swore to uphold the Constitution, he should have read it. For under the Constitution, it's not the President but the people who are the sovereign. The President is merely the sovereign's salaried employee.