

18 Aug 75

Nixon (return to public life?) - "None of us ever really suspected that when Mr. Nixon stepped down from the presidency he was walking into a quiet, respectable private life. That was not the nature of the man. He has had only one real job in his life, political dealing. As he too often has reminded us, he is not a quitter.

"But the recent barrage of flackery from San Clemente, wherein we are caught up with a man champing at the bit to return to public life, makes it only too clear that The Great American Nightmare is going to be with us once again....

"Mr. Nixon's political resurrection, or attempted same, is sure to be painful to the American psyche. This, like many another fact connected with his downfall, is apparently lost on Mr. Nixon. He has the true sociopath's conviction that he never had done wrong, no matter what his 'enemies' assert....

"Nothing, however, will expunge the fact that Mr. Nixon accepted, and perhaps even manipulated, a Presidential pardon while under heavy legal and political fire. This alone should have removed Mr. Nixon from even aspiring to the role of Elder statesman. But, as the Duke of Wellington said in another connection, if you can believe that, you can believe anything."

McCabe describes Nixon's "media stance" as "that of a statesman who is at the moment engaged in a vacation from public life."

SFC 18 Aug 75, Charles McCabe: 'The Old Nixon'
- See entry 13 Oct 75, same heading.