

Poster

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# When Push Comes to Shove?

A President who is a weak, uncertain, inconsistent, reclusive man is holding down the job. He may not have a nervous disorder, but he's going to give the country one, alternating between morbid isolation in his various White Houses and these odd leaps into the public eye made yet more disconcerting by unexplained reports of assassination plots. The peon or comings, goings and libations of the President, however, are as nothing compared to the Agnew situation.

Is his crumbly and qualified endorsement of his vice president another dangle, dangle slowly, slowly number? As we are unaccustomed to seeing our President engage in one-sided shoving matches with their staffs, so we are not yet used to our Vice Presidents attacking our Attorney General for "sneaking" them. Viewed from the public side of the television tube, it looks like this administration is blowing itself up, which might be a good idea if we could be sure they won't blow America with them.

Wasn't it Jimmy T. Eggplant reading statements to the press, saying he is innocent and has nothing to hide, and then he never gives us any facts or particulars. And whatever it is he is suspected of being guilty of, we have to guess, in saying how much better he is than Agnew, he is than Nixon because he says it more loudly and more stridently than the President himself. We have Melvin Laird calling to members of Congress and cautioning them not to make any public comments on the case, e.g., let me handle this. We have the Attorney General and his more subtle underlings supposed to be turning their backs on the press and remarks which led us nothing but a "no comment." The air is full of charges that our Vice President is in fact the cheapest kind of work and that we get "Mum's the word, shush, it's all over, let the grand jury do its work in peace, it's done, although Agnew were an anonymous junkie being indicted for snatching a stereo.

This is beyond all believing. What's going to happen next? Does Richard Richardson indict him and let him stay in office through months of a messy trial? Or does he not indict him and then just let the matter drop? Well, much ado about nothing, forget it, forget Watergate and get back to work, inflation fighters.

For me to talk about it would be totally inappropriate and I make no comment. . . . quoth President Truthful in his shaker and shakey press conference voice, when he should have said that indictment or not all the evidence on Agnew would be sent to the House Judiciary Committee. It is there that impeachment proceedings must originate, and an operative, leading President, would remind us that while it's the courts' duty to determine guilt or innocence, it is the Congress to determine fitness to continue in office.

So, if you were left dangling with the most important question about the government's integrity unanswered. But on the other hand, think of what El Flippo might have said.

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Original filed Nixon