

Goldwater On the State Of the U.S.



JOHN F. KENNEDY
A cautious rating



LYNDON B. JOHNSON
"Fell apart"

Phoenix

The root cause of Watergate, according to Senator Barry Goldwater (Rep.-Ariz.), was "a Gestapo frame of mind."

Goldwater's accusation, perhaps his harshest yet regarding the Watergate affair, was not aimed directly at President Nixon, but at some of the men around him. Referring specifically to John Ehrlichman and H. R. Haldeman, Goldwater said:

"I don't think they have any philosophy. If they had either liberal or conservative (leanings), I don't think they would have gotten into this trouble. Their philosophy ran more to power. You asked what caused Watergate. I think fundamentally, a Gestapo frame of mind."

The 64-year-old Goldwater said he strongly supports the concept of executive privilege, but does not believe the controversial Nixon tapes should be included. Nixon, he said, should give up the tapes if so ordered by the Supreme Court.

"My own personal feeling is that he should have done it. Not given up all the tapes, but if he could have said to the committee, 'All

right, what days do you want? What people do you want?' — then had those tapes carefully audited so they are not going to get the prime minister of England on some very sensitive negotiations, but just what John Dean said to the President or Haldeman or anybody else.

"I think the President made a mistake in not letting them have those tapes."

Turning to the economy, Goldwater said:

"Inflation is probably the biggest single problem that we have, but in that we find the devaluated dollar, we find foreigners with billions of American dollars worth ten per cent more than ours, and us with no gold to retrieve those dollars. We find ourselves in a growing imbalance in economic position with foreign countries."

The senator charges that the things that led to Watergate were built up in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, when the government was run by liberals.

"Look at the big space center in Houston," he said. "Why did it go to Texas? Why did the F-111 go to a Texas company when

Boeing was a better company? Those are the things I'm talking about. They have been going on since we've had presidents."

The Republicans, he said, could do nothing about such things because the Democrats controlled Congress.

"We had a thing come up called the Bobby Baker case. Here sit Sam Ervin, Inouye, Montoya and Talmadge, all on the Democratic side. All voted against any investigation of the Bobby Baker case. President Johnson, in a since-published book, said, 'Bobby Baker could have ruined' him. In other words, the Democrats covered that up, but comes the Watergate and it's Republican, and the Democrats want to make a full disclosure."

"It might be interesting sometime to learn how President Johnson became a millionaire 40 times over while he was president. How did he get that TV license in Austin, Texas? This is strictly against the law. It would be interesting to find out how many members of Congress have licenses or parts of licenses."

Goldwater said he believes, however, that most politicians are honest and that ethics do exist.

But he believes some method must be found to make political candidates more truthful. During the '64 campaign, for example, he said, he advocated strong action in Vietnam and lost. Lyndon Johnson said he would not send additional troops in and won. LBJ, of course, did subsequently send more troops.

"I think the American

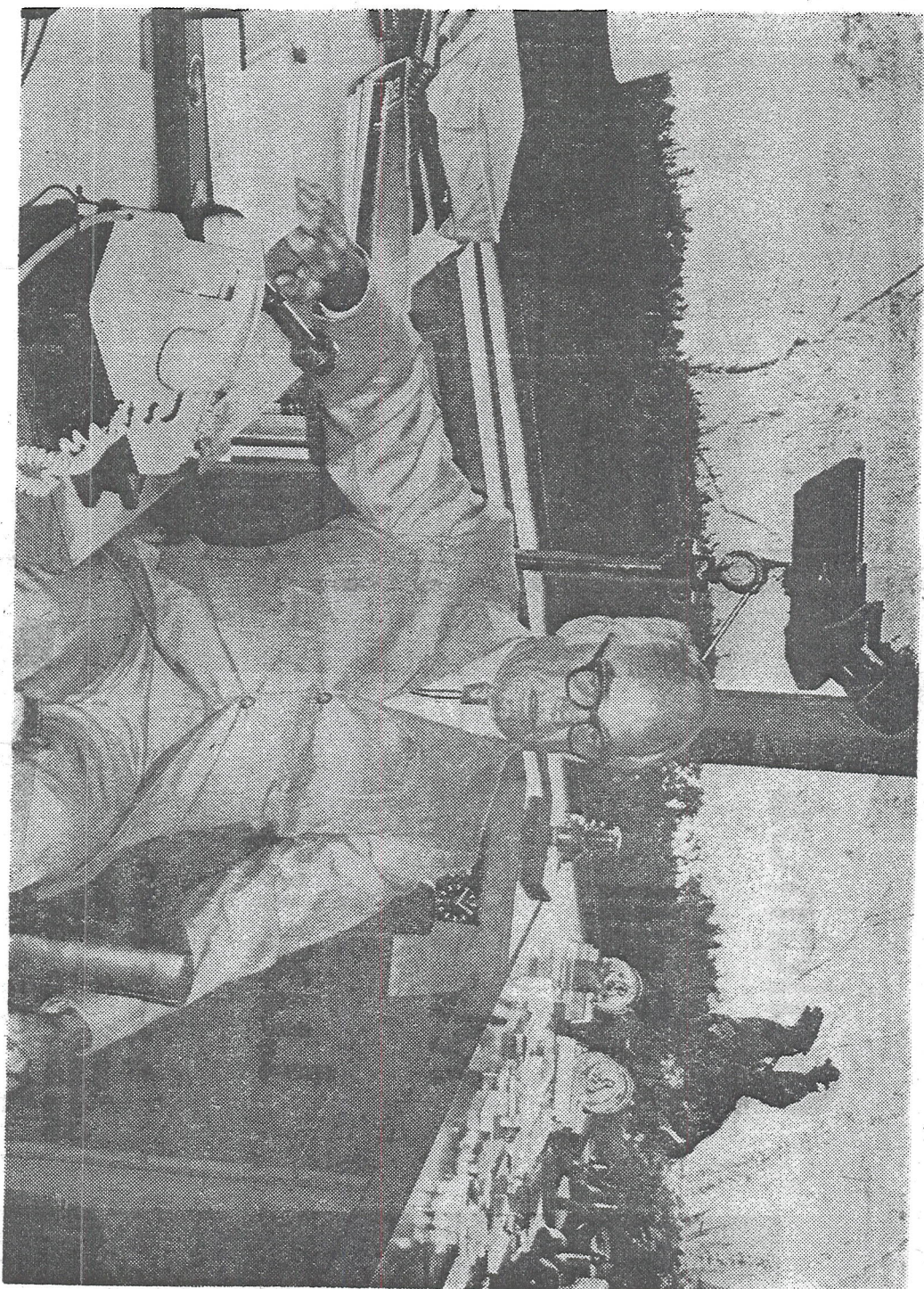
people have to be told exactly where people stand. The American people are not going to like this because the American people don't like to hear the truth.

"If we could get President Nixon today, for example, to talking about the problems this country faces, I think the American people would be a little bit frightened and then they might do something."

Goldwater's concern with letting people know where other people stand has probably had more than a little to do with his assessment of former presidents. In rating some recent occupants of the White House, he said Harry S. Truman probably will go down in history as the best president of the century.

"It may be too early to say that Truman was the best," he said, "but I think on the basis of decision, on the basis of letting the American people know every day where the president stood, that Truman's been outstanding."

"It's way too early to assess Eisenhower. He served in a period of relative calm in the country, when we weren't at war. Kennedy didn't serve long enough. I think had he lived, he would have been a good president."



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As for the man who will become president in 1976, Goldwater has some equally pointed observations. He believes John Connally, Ronald Reagan and Nelson Rockefeller are the leading Republican contenders, but isn't shutting out the possibility of running himself. He will run for re-election to the Senate next year.

Johnson just fell all apart, so he'll never rate.

"I think there were times when Roosevelt was great, but he wasn't consistently great. Wilson, I think, will go down as a good president, not so much for what he did, but what he tried to do."

What about Richard Nixon?

"Well, if Nixon can get moving in the domestic fields, if he can provide the same kind of leadership in reorganizing our government as he's done in foreign affairs, I think he'll go down as a great president. But if he merely goes out of office having done a good job towards world peace, he'll be just a so-so president."

"I wouldn't rule it out if they felt they had to have me, but I don't think they will," he said.

"I wouldn't have said that two months ago, but with Agnew's situation, I think there have to be some areas in the party that they can go back to for organization, and I do have that."

Turning to the Democrats, Goldwater said:

"I don't think Ted Kennedy wants it. That's my honest opinion. I don't know if he could get it if he wanted it, but he is the leading contender."

"I think that Senator (Henry) Jackson has a good chance. Senator (Hubert) Humphrey is probably the



HARRY S. TRUMAN
"Outstanding"



EISENHOWER
"Too early"

best qualified, but he's been around the bases too many times."

In spite of Watergate, Goldwater believes the next election campaign will have its share of "tricks."

"There is nothing new about Watergate, the new-

ness is the size of it. There's been this type of thing going on in politics for as long as I can remember."

Then he said, "In my own case, in 1964, Lyndon Johnson saw my speeches before I saw them."

Women's Wear Daily