

Mr. Nixon's 5672nd Crisis



Arthur Hoppe

BY FEEDING the events of the past three weeks into a vast computer, scientists at the National Institute of Prognostication have determined precisely what Americans will face in the coming three years.

"Our predictions are guaranteed 99.8 per cent accurate," NIP Director Homer T. Pettibone proudly told reporters. "God help us all." The computer readout follows.

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NOV. 7, 1973—Presidential crony Bebe Rebozo confessed today to blowing the \$100,000 he'd collected three years ago for Mr. Nixon from Howard Hughes on wine, women and song.

"In regretfully accepting Mr. Rebozo's resignation as my crony," Mr. Nixon said, "let me say I still have full confidence in his cronyism."

Dec. 8, 1973 — Chief Justice Warren Burger attempted today to administer the oath of Vice President to Gerald Ford. "Repeat after me," he began. "No, no, let's try it again, Mr. Ford . . . Come on, one more time, Jerry . . ."

As darkness fell, Mr. Nixon expressed "full confidence" Mr. Ford would get the oath right when attempts resumed tomorrow.

Jan. 14, 1974 — Mr. Nixon defended himself on television tonight from charges that he negotiated the Russian wheat deal in return for a campaign contribution of 2 million rubles from Mr. Kosygin. "I acted solely in the best interests of every American," he said, "Republicans, Democrats and Communists alike."

In regretfully accepting the resignation of the Russians as his friends, he ex-

pressed "full confidence" in their friendliness and, he said, "in me."

Jan. 15, 1974 — As impeachment momentum mounted Mr. Nixon announced that Dr. Henry Kissinger had just returned from Andromeda III aboard a flying saucer after securing "a lasting peace with honor" with the Andromedans. Meanwhile, fighting continued in Vietnam and the Middle East.

Oct. 18, 1974 — Dr. Kissinger, it was revealed today, neither spoke nor understood English. His secret wife, Eva Braun, had long coached him on what to say. In regretfully accepting his resignation, Mr. Nixon told him he had "unbedingte Zuversicht" in him. Jill St. John expressed "shock and disappointment."

June 5, 1975 — Mr. Nixon regretfully accepted the resignation of Mrs. Nixon as his wife and First Lady today. All she would say is, "I finally heard those tapes."

Jan. 3, 1976 — Following the arrest of David Eisenhower on pot charges, the revelation that Edward Cox was the secret son of Archibald Cox and the disclosure that Justice Burger was the 14th billion Mac Donalds had bought, Mr. Nixon resigned today when the hot water heater burst. "That's one crisis," he shouted, stomping out of the White House, "too many!" Mr. Ford pledged to get the oath straight by tomorrow at the very latest.

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AFTER READING the above predictions, reporters asked if America could survive the next three years. Dr. Pettibone looked surprised.

"If we can survive the last three weeks," he said, "we can obviously survive anything."