

The President And Mr. Nixon



Arthur Hoppe

IT'S BECOMING increasingly clear that the country is being run by two men.

One is, of course, the President. And the other is, of course, Mr. Nixon.

The President conducts foreign affairs, confers with Dr. Kissinger and delivers Presidential addresses. Mr. Nixon is in charge of wiretaps, personnel, campaign contributions and holding press conferences to kick the press around some more.

For example in his last press conference, Mr. Nixon defended the President. Sort of. While "many thought the President was shell-shocked and unable to act," nothing, he said all in the same sentence, will "affect me in doing my job."

Sly innuendos like this have naturally widened the rift that has been growing between the two men in recent months. It's little wonder that the President made five trips in one week to his mountaintop Camp David hideaway to confer secretly with Mr. Nixon.

The growing split between the two leaders, insiders report, culminated in a dramatic head-on clash just the other night.

★ ★ ★

THE PRESIDENT: I'm sorry, Dick. My decision to hand over the tapes to Judge Sirica is irrevocable.

Mr. Nixon: But all the work I went to, sir, to protect your executive privilege, your Presidential confidentiality, your constitutional separation of powers — firing Cox, bamboozling old Senator Sam into a deal, hoodwinking the press . . .

The President: I know you acted out of the noblest of motives, Dick, but my mind's made up. I will hand over those nine tapes to the Judge tomorrow as I promised.

Mr. Nixon: But you can't, sir.

The President: I must, Dick. Turning over those nine tapes is the only thing that will restore the nation's confidence in my integrity.

Mr. Nixon: But you can't, sir.

The President (frowning): Stop saying I can't. Why on earth can't I?

Mr. Nixon (hesitantly): Because two of them are missing.

The President: Good Lord! Two out of nine? Well, at least the odds are better than four to one that the Dean tape is there. That's the crucial one, Dick.

Mr. Nixon (wiping perspiration from his upper lip): You say that one's crucial, sir?

The President: Of course! Dean was the only Watergate witness to link me directly with the cover-up. That tape of our conversation will prove my innocence once and for all.

Mr. Nixon: Maybe Haldeman erased it when he borrowed it.

The President (ashen): It's gone? Why is it always the one critical thing that goes wrong? (suddenly suspicious) Wait! It was you who erased it, Dick. Why did you do this to me? Why did you destroy the one piece of evidence that could prove me innocent. Why?

Mr. Nixon (mopping his brow): Somehow or other, sir, it just never occurred to me you were.

★ ★ ★

THIS STAB in the back is too much! Let every patriot, fellow Americans, rally around and support our great President in his hour of crisis.

And, meanwhile, let's impeach Mr. Nixon.