

It's Under 'B' for Rebozo

By Art Buchwald

One of the things the Nixon administration was noted for before Watergate was its neatness. It's hard to believe, on the basis of recent revelations, that the President has run one of the sloppiest White Houses in our history. Records get lost, tapes don't exist, notes are misplaced. It's not enough to impeach the President, but it certainly scares the heck out of you.

I can just see the President buzzing his private secretary, Rose Mary Woods.

"Rose Mary, get me that tough note Brezhnev sent me during the Mideast crisis."

"Yessir, Mr. President."

Twenty minutes later. "The note seems to be missing, Mr. President. There's nothing in the Brezhnev folder except a telegram congratulating Princess Anne on her wedding."

"Did you look in the Princess Anne folder?"

"Yes, I did, and there is nothing in her folder except John Mitchell's resignation as Attorney General."

"Good grief, I have to get a copy of the Soviet note. Did you look in my folder?"

"Yes, I did, Mr. President. The only thing in your folder is your tough note to Brezhnev."

"Well, at least that's something. Let me see it."

"Here it is, Mr. President."

"This isn't the tough note I sent Brezhnev. It's a summary of Kissinger's talks with Golda Meir."

"Oops. Sorry about that. It was written on a shopping bag, so it was hard to decipher."

"Perhaps we could get out the tapes of my conversations with Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin. I think he summed up the Brezhnev remarks."

"I'll call the Secret Service and have them sent up right away."

A half hour later. "Mr. President, did you speak to Mr. Dobrynin on Oct. 24 or 25?"

"Why do you ask?"

"Because the tapes marked 'Conversation with Dobrynin Part I' seem to be a telephone call you made to Bebe Rebozo."

"Did you check the Bebe Rebozo tapes?"

"Yes, and they turned out to be a conversation you had with Emperor Haile Selassie when you were *Vice President*."

"Dammit, Rose Mary, we seem to be running a loose ship around here. Get me the tapes of my conversation with Mao Tse Tung."

"Bob Haldeman took them home with him last June."

"Well, didn't he bring them back?"

"He can't remember."

"Okay, forget the tapes. Give me the notes I dictated after my meeting with the congressional leaders on the energy crisis."

"Here they are, Mr. President."

"Hold it. These aren't my notes on the energy crisis. They're the plays I worked out for the Washington Redskins in last year's Super Bowl game."

"Mr. President, if you don't like the way I'm doing my work I'll be very happy to resign."

"Now, Rose Mary, stop crying. I think you're doing a wonderful job. It's just that every once in a while I can't seem to find something I'm looking for."

"You know this is not the easiest job in the world."

"Rose Mary, Rose Mary. Pat and I think the world of you. Now you just go back to your desk and forget all about the tough note Brezhnev sent me. It probably wasn't important anyway."