

# Goldwater Is Back in Style

By James M. Naughton

Washington

LIKE a Republican cloth coat rediscovered in the closet at the end of a fashion era, Barry Goldwater is back in style.

For a decade, Democrats gleefully scored him; now they quote him. Republicans tried to forget his political legacy; now they applaud him.

The reason is Watergate — and the blunt candor that devastated Senator Goldwater's campaign for the White House in 1964 seems to many to have become something of a national treasure in 1974.

The renaissance of the Arizona Republican is real:

- Sen. John G. Tower of Texas, the conservative chairman of the Senate Republican policy committee, urged President Nixon in October to nominate Goldwater to succeed Spiro T. Agnew as vice president.

- Victor Gold, the conservative columnist and former aide to both Senator Goldwater and Mr. Agnew, suggested more recently that the nation take a second look in 1976 at a Goldwater-for-president movement.

- Sen. Charles McC. Mathias, a liberal Republican from Maryland, declared that "there is this tremendous thirst for truth, and Barry is talking straight."

- Mark Shields, a campaign strategist for liberal

Democrats, concluded the other day that Goldwater "represents the ultimate triumph of character of ideology."

- The senator has popped up on the Gallup poll list of the most admired men in the world, finishing tenth, behind Pope Paul VI.

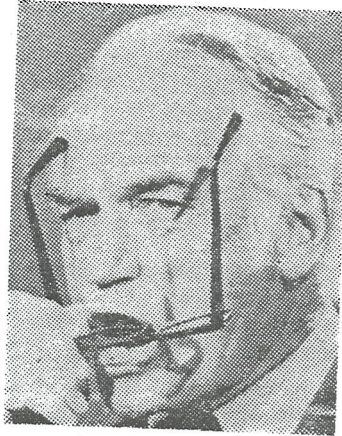
There is more than mere irony in the transformation of the goat of the 1964 Republican disaster into a hero of the 1974 Republican trauma. It may be both a cause and a symptom of the President's troubles.

Asked to explain the reversal, an official in the Nixon Administration said that Goldwater "is not talking about nuke-ing the enemy any more, he's talking about nuke-ing Nixon."

## Nixon-haters

Or, as a departing White House aide put it, "all the professional Nixon-haters rejoice if Barry says something critical of Nixon."

According to Goldwater's close associates, he is trying to help the President — and has been for more than a year — by prodding Nixon to make a full disclosure on Watergate matters, convinced that it will be to his benefit and the only way to salvage his presidency.



AP Wirephoto

GOLDWATER

The prodding has varied from a private needle (when the senator arrived at the White House for one of Nixon's "Operation Candor" meetings with Republican congressmen late last year, he gave the President a bottle of Watergate brand bourbon) to uncommonly harsh public criticism of what the senator complained was a Nixon tendency "to dabble and dabble and argue on very nebulous grounds like executive privilege and confidentiality when all the American people wanted to know was the truth."

Thus far, however, the

senator's frank statements appear to have had little lasting impact at the White House. In apparent frustration, Goldwater told the Christian Science Monitor in a widely reprinted interview last month that he had "never known a man to be such a loner in any field" as Nixon. Goldwater's limited influence at the White House is not new, and some of his associates believe his bluntness reflects pique at Nixon's lack of attention to the President's predecessor as the Republican standard-bearer.

One senate colleague, who asked not to be identified, remembered having told Goldwater in 1971 that the White House no doubt was grateful for a laudatory speech by the Arizonian.

"Grateful?" the senator reportedly replied. "Right after the inauguration in 1969, Nixon called and said, 'You and I want to be very close; I hope you won't find it a burden to come down to the White House every two weeks or so,' Christ, I haven't seen him in a year."

Although Goldwater declined through an aide to submit to an interview, Capitol Hill associates and administration officials des-

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cribed a long series of unavailing attempts by the senator to persuade the White House to respond openly to Watergate critics and investigators.

According to one source, the senator first began inquiring about Watergate during the 1972 presidential campaign, when Goldwater sought assurance that he could dismiss Watergate as a serious matter.

He was told, the source said, that, once the whole story was known, "the Democrats will have redder faces than ours."

## Advice to Nixon

Early last year, when Watergate disclosures first began to trickle into print, a group of senior White House aides reportedly told Nixon he should consult Goldwater.

The senator was advised that he would hear soon from Nixon. A few hours later, he was invited to the White House. But rather than an audience with the President, he was taken to the office of Bryce N. Harlow, a White House counselor, and asked what advice he would give if Nixon should seek it.

Goldwater reportedly proposed that the President "get up to the hill and talk to Sam Ervin" of North Carolina, the chairman of the Senate Watergate committee.

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