



Dwight D. Eisenhower—I was so taken by Ike as a human being that I found it very difficult to write or talk objectively about him. He had enormous personal charm and naturalness, and he was totally incapable of being pompous or putting on an act. He said instinctively what came into mind—probably not a wise thing in a President. And the truth is, Ike was out of the water in politics and the Presidency. Though, at the time, I'd like to think, he was probably good for the country.



John F. Kennedy—He was a charmer, and he knew it. I think his public image as a great liberal is a false one, and I think he got away with a lot of things that he wouldn't have if he hadn't been so charming, so young and so good-looking. He was not a great President. His great attraction is the promise of what he might have done, not what he did do.



Lyndon B. Johnson—It is my belief that LBJ will be rediscovered as a great President. He was the one who brought about the turmoil of the '60's—which seems a very odd compliment—but what I mean is that he took the New Deal where it was meant to go, and he took the civil rights bills that Kennedy talked about where they were meant to go. Of course, his Achilles' heel was Vietnam, and that's where all his worst qualities came out—his grandiosity, his vanity and his hatred of being beaten. It got away from him. But what he did socially, a great deal of what has happened for the good in the employment and lifting up of minorities, is due to LBJ; and I think that sooner or later he will be rediscovered and perhaps even thanked for it.



Richard M. Nixon—I think he is an extremely complicated man, but I don't believe he, personally, is as sinister as some people make him out. His great failing, it seems to me, is that he is a terrible judge of men. And the question that arises is whether in this age we can afford to have such a man in the White House—a man who has an absolutely eerie gift for choosing shabby people.