

Mr. Nixon Wins Sympathy Vote



Arthur Hoppe

Mauna Kea, Hawaii

MR. NIXON'S attempt to get out of paying a half million dollars in income taxes was obviously another blatant appeal for the sympathy vote of rich and poor alike.

A carefully-conducted poll of the guests at this spectacular, Rockefeller-owned resort indicates that 90 per cent of the American public feels deeply for Mr. Nixon and admires his fortitude, acumen and ingenuity.

Like most communities, Mauna Kea is comprised of both rich and poor. The rich occupy the ocean-view rooms at \$115 a day per couple, including breakfast and dinner but not tips, drinks, green fees or the sumptuous \$12 lunch.

The poor, however, are relatively content in their \$95 mountain-view rooms. And, like most people at the poverty level, they manage to survive somehow on two meals a day.

The poll was conducted among a carefully-selected sampling of ten gentlemen seated about the thatched-roof bar on the hotel's private beach. They were carefully selected on the criterion of relative sobriety.

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"FRANKLY," said Bradford Blatant of Blatant, Blatant, Blatant & Mudge, stating the case for the majority, "I feel we should erect a statue to our beloved President with a simple inscription such as, 'He Showed the Way!'"

"Nonsense, Brad," protested Malcolm Mudge of Mudge, Mudge, Mudge & Blatant. "A measly half million in income taxes. Any red-blooded American could evade that much quarterly."

"What are income taxes?" innocently inquired J. Vanderpont Pierbilt of Newport and Palm Beaches.

"You're forgetting, Mal," said Blatant,

ignoring Pierbilt, "that our poor President only earns a measly \$200,000 a year. At that rate, half a million isn't bad."

"Speaking for the poor," interjected J. Livingston Segal of Room 643 (mountain view), "I think the President has set a shining example for all America. If he can evade a half a million, there's no reason the rest of us at or near the poverty level can't do likewise."

"Exactly," said Blatant, lighting a Havana. "For far too long, this country's been divided by absurd allegations that only the rich are rich enough to avoid income taxes. The President has shown once and for all that the poor can afford it, too."

"At last," agreed Segal enthusiastically, "he's brought this country together!"

There was some haggling over the charge the President had falsely claimed a deduction for \$148 in gas taxes over a three-year period. Mudge said he considered this "petty thinking."

"Not at all, Mal," said Blatant. "It shows an attention to detail that's most admirable. After all, when it comes to avoiding taxes, it isn't the amount that matters. It's a question of principle."

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THERE WAS general agreement on this. The one dissenting opinion was voiced by crotchety Crabtree Crotchett of General Conglomerate, Inc.

"Horsefeathers!" snapped Crotchett. "This fellow, Nixon, has set an atrocious example for every young American who will be called upon to support his government annually in its hour of need."

There was a moment of stunned silence. "Do you mean he should have paid his taxes?" asked Blatant incredulously.

"No," said Crotchett. "I mean he shouldn't have got caught."