

# Private Evaluations by the President of Public Figures

President Nixon, in the comparative privacy and informality of his Oval Office discussions with close associates, was given to crisp evaluations of other public figures. Following are some of Mr. Nixon's comments, as culled from the edited transcripts of those conversations.



Sam J. Ervin Jr.

**Chairman of the Senate Watergate committee:** "Ervin works harder than most of these Southern gentlemen. They are great politicians. They are just more clever than the minority. Just more clever!"



Herbert W. Kalmbach

**Mr. Nixon's personal lawyer:** "A decent fellow. He will make a good witness ... he is smart."



Charles W. Colson

**Special counsel to the A journalist and the acuser of Alger Hiss:** "Talks too much" and "is also a name-dropper."



Whittaker Chambers



Donald M. Segretti

**Recruited by Dwight Chapin, Mr. Nixon's appointments secretary, to run a "dirty tricks" campaign against the Democrats:** "(expletive deleted). He was such a dumb figure."



Harry S. Truman

"Well, the point is whatever we say about Harry Truman, etc., while it hurt him, a lot of people admired the old bastard for standing by people . . . who were guilty as hell."



William P. Rogers

Former Secretary of State, Attorney General in the Eisenhower Administration, and one of Mr. Nixon's oldest, closest associates: "Able fellow — was a fine Attorney General and so forth."

H. R. Haldeman  
John D. Erlichman

Mr. Nixon's chief of staff and his chief domestic adviser: "I know that as far as you're concerned, you'll go out and throw yourself on a damned sword . . . you're the two most valuable members on the staff, I know that. The problem is, you're the two most loyal and the two most honest. We don't have to go into that. You know how I feel about that. It's not bull—it's the truth."

John W. Dean 3d

Mr. Nixon's counsel and, later, the Watergate committee's star witness: "I don't think you can control him. He's fanatic."

John N. Mitchell

Former Attorney General and Presidential campaign manager: "Has a great stone face."

Ronald L. Ziegler

White House press secretary: "Get out there and act your usual cocky, confident self."



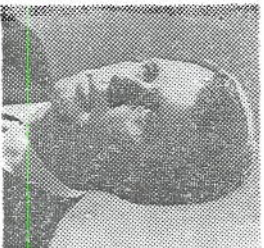
Howard H. Baker Jr.

Tennessee Republican who was vice chairman of the Senate Watergate committee: "A smoothy—impressive."



L. Patrick Gray 3d

Onetime acting director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation: "Oh, he's dumb . . . he is just quite stubborn and also he isn't very smart."



Robert F. Kennedy

"Bobby was a ruthless (characterization omitted)."



J. Edgar Hoover

F. B. I. Director: "Well, Hoover performed. He would have fought. That was the point. He would have defied a few people he would have scared them to death. He has a file on everybody."



Jeb S. Magruder

Deputy director of the Committee for the Re-election of the President: "Not a very bright fellow. I mean he is bright, but he doesn't think through to the end . . . a very facile liar. Magruder's a sort of lightweight in a very heavy job."