

# How to Achieve a Strong Presidency



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**T**HE DIFFICULTY of removing Richard Nixon from the White House is pretty obvious. Thought, perhaps, should be given to removing him with the White House.

Here's a scenario:

He's away a great deal these days, and is planning to be on the wing fairly constantly during the impeachment proceedings. What is to stop an ingenious people, say the experts at the Housing and Urban Development Department, from simply packing up the White House, gates and all, and transporting it intact to some climate congenial to the President? Say, Jackson, Miss.

He could be flown back from Moscow late at night in Air Force One. He could be set down on the familiar lawn, amid familiar faces, and escorted to his quarters, which would be just as he left them.

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**F**OR HIS SUCCESSOR, Gerald Ford, who could be sworn in in some tunnel in the House of Representatives, a small temporary-type ranch house could be thrown up on the site of the old White House.

Let it be drafty in winter and stifling in summer. One of the problems with the presidency is that its occupants become so addicted to the lavish appointments of the executive mansion that they do reprehensible things in order not to leave it.

The new presidential quarters should, above everything, have thin walls. That way, if any members of his staff are up to no good — washing money, dishing out hush funds or plotting perjury behind the President's back — he will hear them.

President Nixon, of course, knew nothing of the Watergate plot because he could overhear nothing. A new Watergate would thus almost certainly be prevented.

Steps would have to be taken to keep Richard Nixon from finding out what has happened to him. No insurmountable obstacles come to mind. The Watergate cover-up was hidden from him for nine months, and he is, by his own admission, a trusting soul quite easily deceived, except, as we know, when dealing with the Soviets, whom he could visit from time to time. Subpoenas should be served at regular intervals.

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**O**N THE OFF-CHANCE that someone might leave the television on after a re-run of "Patton" and Mr. Nixon should catch a glimpse of Gerald Ford addressing a joint session of Congress, quick-wittedness would be called for. Why could he not be told that Ford, having despaired of ever attaining the presidency, was seeking a career in the movies and was being pictured making a screen test?

But if he found out — let's say Patrick Buchanan slips and leaves the "vice" out of President Ford's name one day in the daily press digest — Ford could go down and straighten things out. He could simply explain that people had been so persuaded by Mr. Nixon that what the country needs most is a "strong presidency" that Congress had concluded that the only way to strengthen it was to have two Presidents instead of one.

If the President doesn't like it, and Ford stonewalls him, he can always sue. He can issue subpoenas of his own — and pray that the case doesn't end up before Judge John Sirica.

**Arthur Hoppe is on a week's vacation.**