

Nixon Personality Is Called 'Flawed' By His Jesuit Aide

NYTimes AUG 27 1974

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26 (UPI) —Describing former President Richard M. Nixon as a thoroughbred with a flawed personality, the Rev. John J. McLaughlin, a former Presidential speechwriter, said today that he had a new feeling of "excitement and peace" with President Ford in the White House.

Father McLaughlin is a Jesuit priest who was one of Mr. Nixon's strongest defenders during the months of the crisis that preceded his resignation. He said in an interview that his feelings during the final Nixon days were "instantly rage, desolation, the bends; and now a feeling of excitement and peace."

In comparing the two Presidents, Father McLaughlin said: "I think Richard Nixon is very complicated: a flawed personality, but a thoroughbred . . . he left office with dignity and with colossal discipline and with good heart."

President Ford, he said, is a "liberal conservative" politically, while personally he is "extroverted, action oriented and candid."

The priest also said that Mr. Nixon was a "great peacemaker —that is what the historians will put on the good side of the ledger."

Father McLaughlin said he did not feel betrayed by Mr. Nixon, but he did feel rage, stemming from his belief that the former President permitted "a mountain to grow out of a mole hill" in terms of the cover up.

To Leave White House

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26 (AP) —President Ford's press secretary, Jerald F. terHorst, said today that Father McLaughlin was remaining on the White House staff during a "transitional phase." But he said the Jesuit "will shortly be leaving the White House."