



Russ Busby

GOD AND MAN IN THE WHITE HOUSE

Despite President Nixon's long friendship with the Rev. Billy Graham, the clergyman—who after reading the White House transcripts in May lamented, "We have lost our moral compass"—hasn't met with the President since January. "I would come if I were called," he insists. "I haven't been called." One member of the Nixon family, however, has been following Graham's advice. At his suggestion, Julie Nixon Eisenhower has become a regular at Bible classes conducted by Mrs. George Page, who is active in the Campus Crusade for Christ.

TIGHTENING THE OIL SQUEEZE

The Middle East oil producers, already in control of the world's biggest oil reserves, may gain an even firmer grip on the world's energy supply. With tanker rates dropping, Federal energy officials fear that shipowners may decide to sell off excess tonnage—and the only buyers for the vessels are the oil producers. Should that happen, the producers—who are anxious to play a larger role in "downstream" oil distribution—could effectively block the switching of shipments that helped ease the squeeze of last winter's oil embargo.

READY, MR. FORD

Should Vice President Gerald Ford be called on to assume the Presidency, at least one Federal agency is prepared. Each senior Secret Service agent traveling with Ford carries a card bearing the printed text of the Presidential

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

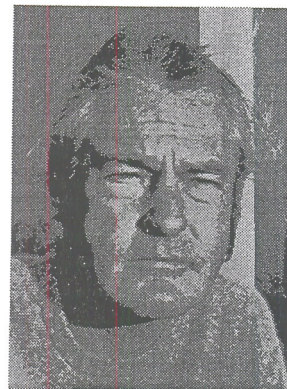
oath of office. The practice actually was not prompted by the possibility of Mr. Nixon's impeachment. After the assassination of John F. Kennedy, agents assigned to the Vice Presidential detail decided on their own to take this special precaution.

COOLING OFF THE NUKES

A top priority for Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Defense chief James Schlesinger during the Cyprus crisis: guarding American nuclear weapons in Greece and Turkey. The two ranking officials feared that with Athens and Ankara squaring off, hotheads in one or both countries might try to seize the nukes, either for diplomatic blackmail or for actual fighting. Washington ordered emergency action to increase guards and reinforce sites where the weapons are stored. Some nukes, on alert status, were withdrawn into guarded compounds.

FREEDOM, WITH A CATCH

After months of worrying, top Portuguese officials think they've devised a way to give independence to Angola, their largest African colony—and still keep oil-rich Cabinda, a territory administered from Angola but actually a separate enclave 40 miles away. If the Portuguese abandon Cabinda—which generates \$500 million a year in oil revenues—they fear it will be seized by a free Angola or by its other neighbors, Zaïre (the old Belgian Congo) or the Congo Brazzaville. The Lisbon plan would set up Cabinda as an autonomous state, with Portugal furnishing military protection—and sharing the oil money.



James D. Wilson—Newsweek

A GURU SWITCHES

Timothy Leary, the onetime Harvard professor who became a guru of the 1960s counter-culture, is chanting a different tune. According to California lawmen, he is working with the FBI on several bureau investigations. Leary at present is trying to win parole from a California prison; he also faces an old Federal conviction for marijuana smuggling that could bring him a further ten-year sentence.

THE BRASS'S BRASS

Despite solemn promises from Saigon that such chicanery would be prohibited, high-ranking South Vietnamese officers are reaping personal profits from the sale of brass casings from used artillery shells, according to U.S. Senate investigators. (The U.S.-made shells are now Vietnamese property.) The Senate probers charge that the officers have hoarded 60,000 tons of casings, worth \$85 million on the scrap market. The report says that 26,000 tons have been exported illegally to reap more than \$36 million, a charge denied by President Nguyen Van Thieu's spokesmen. The South Vietnamese Army also seems to be working to keep up the illicit supply—it returns sixteen rounds for every shot fired by the Viet Cong.

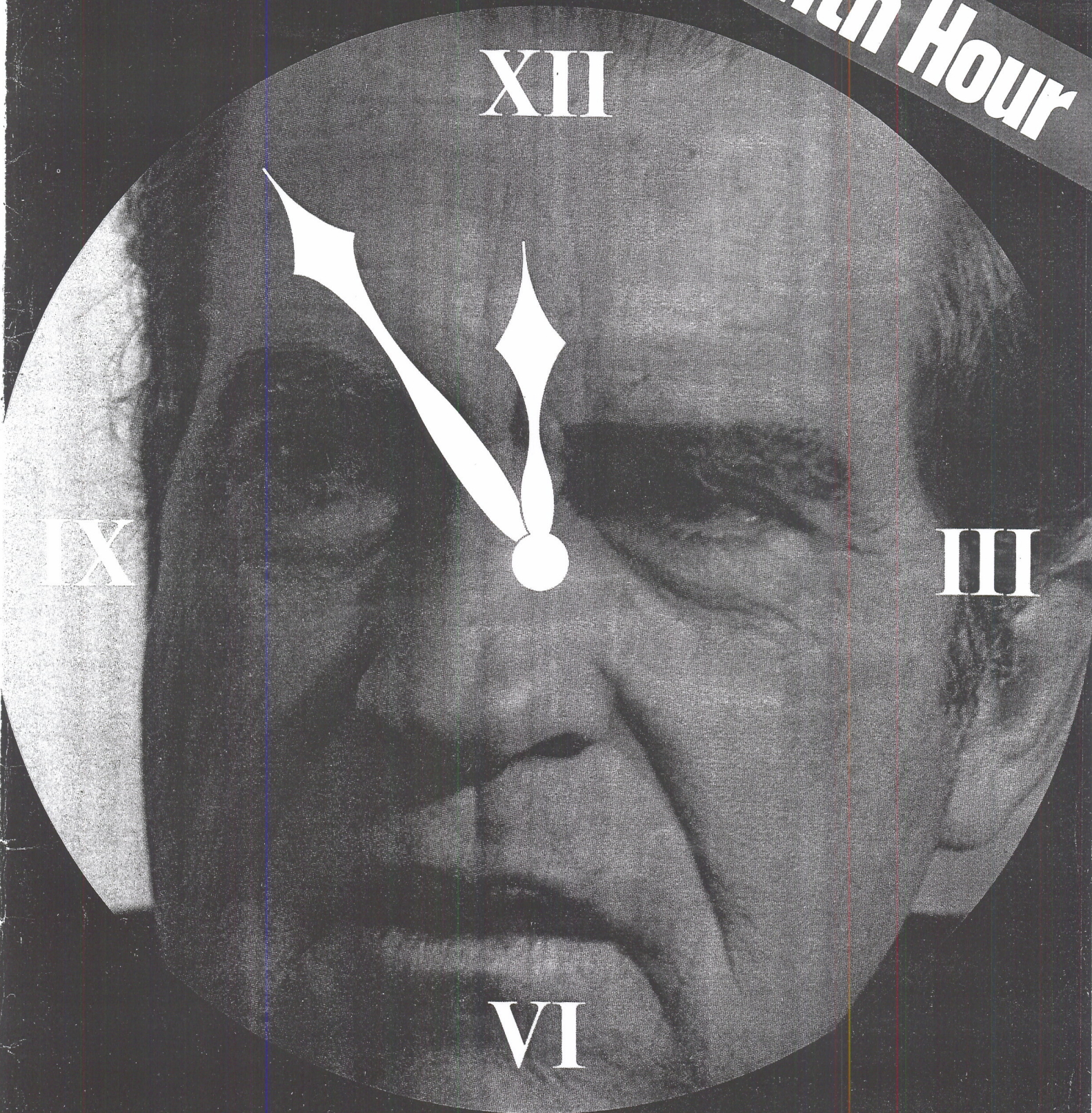
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The Eleventh Hour



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