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Thoroughly Examined

Editor — James Reston concludes his review in the Sunday Punch May 11 of Theodore White's "The Fall of Richard Nixon," with these words, "The flaws in Nixon's character were actually clear as far back as his original campaigns for the House and Senate, but were not examined." And smugly adds that this oversight can be charged to the voters.

Not true. Nixon's "flaws" were noted, examined and gave rise to the antipathy for the man as demonstrated by millions of California voters in the gubernatorial race of 1962. When in the aftermath of that campaign Nixon announced, "(the press) won't have Nixon to kick around any more. . .", we who knew him to be a poisonous worm in the body politic, heaved a sigh of relief.

Unfortunately, however, he was resurrected, restructured, by this

same press and presented to the American voters as a "responsible, stable and statesman-like. . ." candidate for the Presidency and endorsed as such by Reston's New York Times.

If, as he claims, Reston would avoid the same mistake "next time" he would do well to pay more attention to what the people are saying and less to his "knowledgeable contacts in high places." But he won't.

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