

Charles McCabe

# Himself

## Keeping Up With RMN

"A DECENT interval of silence, say 10 years, would seem to be the least that Richard Nixon owes the republic after committing various crimes and then repeatedly, shamelessly, lying about them to the courts, his own lawyers, committees of Congress and the American people in news conferences, official statements and televised speeches complete with American flag, bust of Lincoln and invocations of the deity's blessings upon each and every one of you."



The words are not mine, though I would have been glad to have written them. They are the words of William V. Shannon, an editor of *The New York Times* and a lad who has seen through the shoddy self of Whittier, Calif.'s, leading Quaker for a long, long time.

I found Shannon's quote among my file of Nixon memorabilia, culled from here and there. You might care to share some of my other treasures, as we await *The Second Coming*.

Nixon has tidied up his relations with his spiritual adviser, the Rev. Billy Graham. He and the Rev. weren't hitting it off so good after he lost his White House clout.

Billy was invited by Nixon to one of his famous "candlelight" dinners at the old manse at San Clemente. When the cleric arrived he surprised his host, who was in the act of reading a life of Jesus Christ.

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WHILE NIXON gives these cozy and godly little dinners, the lads who prepared his creative tax returns are in jail or facing same. One is already serving a four-year sentence for falsification.

The other, a greying Los Angeles tax attorney named Frank de Marco, faces 15 years in jail and a \$25,000 fine if convicted of backdating a deed intended to save his client, Nixon, a half-million bucks on a gift of "vice presidential papers." Among these treasures are a 1966 Whittier college yearbook, boxes of newspaper clippings about the man, and 9000 letters from children.

"Mr. Nixon went over his return page by page before signing," says de Marco. Has he heard from the ex-president lately? "That would be like hearing from a call girl who gave you a dose," says de Marco.

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NIXON, by the grace of Gerald Ford, cannot be tried for crimes committed while in office, but de Marco has vowed he will get him on the stand in de Marco's own trial. Why? "Because he is the prince of the drama. I was just a spear carrier."

Congress has left RMN cruelly short of cash. To meet his immediate cash bind, his Florida pal Bebe Rebozo has formed something called a "Nixon Historical Association" which will acquire that well-known Key Biscayne estate as a "non-profit center for international studies." Rebozo has announced he hopes to raise a half million from the public. This is almost twice the sum Nixon paid for the place five years ago.

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THERE is another little problem. That is the 375,000 lawyers who practice in this great land. They have not as yet contributed their collective wisdom as to whether this man should be disbarred in New York and California. A disbarred lawyer is like a sprinter with a wooden leg.

The embattled profession is so low in spirits these days that they will probably lower the boom on Brother Nixon. But this will hardly matter once the networks put on the man, and his British sycophant, David Frost, to tell us how the man brought peace to mankind. There is only one Richard Milhous Nixon, I tell you.

\* See letter, SFC 17 Nov 75, from David S. Casey, President, State Bar of California.