

MISTRUST FOUND IN NIXON'S STAFF

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Psychiatrist Asserts Aides
Couldn't Respect Dissent

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 11 (UPI)

—A psychiatrist on the White House staff from 1971 to 1973 says the inner group around Richard M. Nixon deeply mistrusted the motives of other people, viewed concern for people's feelings as a character flaw, and could not respect loyal opposition or dissent.

"Dissent and disloyalty were concepts that were never sufficiently differentiated in their minds," Dr. Jerome H. Jaffe said. "That really was the tragic part. To dissent was to be disloyal. That is the theme that recurred again and again."

Dr. Jaffe was director of the White House Special Action Office for Drug Abuse prevention and was special consultant to the President for narcotics and dangerous drugs. He now at the New York State Psychiatric Institute and is professor of psychiatry at Columbia University.

His views of his White House years came in an interview published in *Psychiatric News*, a publication of the American Psychiatric Association. He said he was not speaking as a psychiatrist but just as someone who had been there.

Dr. Jaffe said the White House environment was ruthless and there was pride in its ruthlessness.

"The Administration admired people who could be cold and dispassionate in making personnel decisions," he said. "To make concessions to people's feelings, to recognize that a particular objective was not worth destroying people in the process of its attainment, was not something that elicited any admiration. Such a concern was viewed as a fatal flaw."

"They deeply distrusted the motives of other people and were unable to believe that people could rise above selfish motives," he said.

See also WXP 13 Jan 76,
Judy Bachrach.