

See also SFC, NYT, 12 Jan 76.

Analyzing The Nixon Team

By Judy Bachrach

"Washington was vicious in its own way. As a matter of fact—there was this pride in ruthlessness . . . The administration admired people who could be cold and dispassionate in making personnel decisions . . . there is no question that they thought it was admirable when Fred Malik walked in on Secretary Hickel's top aides, people called out of private life to dedicate themselves to government service, and (said) 'I want your resignation and I want you out of here by 5 o'clock . . .'"

No, this is not just another politico reminiscing about the Nixon years. These are the words of Dr. Jerome Jaffe, a psychiatrist who served on the Nixon staff between 1971 and 1973. Dr. Jaffe who was the director of the Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention and a special consultant to the President for narcotics and dangerous drugs, granted an interview to *Psychiatric News* in the course of which he discussed, among other things, his impressions of the Nixon years.

In the interview Dr. Jaffe says that Nixon people "were not entirely selfish . . ." He explains that "Behind all of what they did was the idea that the people of the Nixon administration could accomplish something."

"I would have been more careful had I known there would have been such (widespread publicity)," Dr. Jaffe said yesterday in New York where he is a chief of psychiatric research at the New York State Psychiatric Institute. "I knew a thousand people in the Nixon administration . . . I don't think people appreciate the heterogeneity of people in government . . . Within the Nixon ad-

ministration were people who dissented without difficulty."

But in the Dec. 17 edition of *Psychiatric News*, a publication of the American Psychiatric Association, he is quoted as saying that "the inner White House group" never really took outsiders into their confidence. "They deeply mistrusted the motives of other people and were unable to believe that people can rise above selfish motives to say, 'You do represent the presidency and we will not betray that trust . . . They could not respect loyal opposition or loyal dissent. . .'"

Dr. Jaffe claims these remarks were meant more as "an aside" and the gist of the interview was a comparison between politics and academe (he is also a psychiatry professor at Columbia University).

But evidently he had his problems with the old administration and one of them was that, ". . . despite my much vaunted ruthlessness, I was really not ruthless at all. Not enough for them at any rate."

In the interview, Dr. Jaffe recalls one certain day when he drove away from San Clemente with a seemingly troubled Egil Krogh, who had been assigned to set up the plumbers unit, and of whom the doctor still thinks highly.

"He never told me what it was that troubled him. Think of the irony—had Krogh only said, when the situation arose later, 'I have an assignment to get something from a psychiatrist's office on Ellsberg,' I could have said and with my usual sarcasm: 'What psychiatrist takes notes? Psychiatrists don't like to admit that they are lax in taking notes . . .'"