

NYTimes
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2 Jan 76

From column by Tom Wicker on his fictional "Favorite Unannounced Presidential Candidate," and his platform:

"His first promise would be based on the premise that with most of the Watergate offenders exposed and punished, and with the C.I.A. and the F.B.I. retrieved from the secrecy and autonomy in which they had inevitably become corrupt, at least two further steps are needed to clear the air of public life. My Favorite Unannounced Candidate would promise root-and-branch investigations, to the elimination of every legitimate doubt, of the circumstances under which Gerald Ford was named Vice President, became President, and pardoned Richard Nixon; and of the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

"These investigations, he believes, are necessary because so much doubt exists in the public mind in each case; and because, until those doubts are substantially laid to rest, lurid suspicions of cover-up, collusion, conspiracy, corruption - even treason - will continue to poison political life and limit confidence in the integrity of government. And it would be a necessary codicil to My Favorite Unannounced Candidate's pledge that the investigations would be conducted by independent staffs empowered to let the chips fall where they might."

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