

PRESIDENT NIXON'S DEFICIENCIES

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Four years ago, in the December issue of the Bulletin, we wished Mr. Nixon and his administration good luck. The chaos attending the Kennedy-Johnson years had reached its peak in 1968, and, with riots, demonstrations, bombings, arson, assassinations and the college campuses in complete disorder, we were hopeful that a change in the philosophy of government might have a quieting effect and restore a bit of sanity and stability to this country.

Another election is over now and President Nixon has won a second term in office. He has not been everyone's favorite, but, in spite of his lack of charm and personal appeal, his lopsided margin of victory over McGovern was one of the greatest ever recorded. The once-solid Democratic South voted solidly Republican for the first time in its history and gave him an emphatic 72% of its votes.

After four years of the Nixon administration, rioting has all but disappeared, demonstrations are infrequent and half-hearted and college campuses are again quiet. Over 90% of our troops are disengaged from Indochina, and our involvement in the Vietnam War is practically ended. While there is some criticism about the "honorableness" of the anticipated peace settlement in South Vietnam, at least we have been able to save a little "face" out of what looked to be an impossible situation. In addition, the Nixon trips to China and Russia were major accomplishments in diplomacy, which have measurably reduced world tension and provided hopeful new bases for international understanding and peace.

So, in effect, much of what we had hoped for four years ago has come about, and primarily through the efforts of President Nixon. Still, a paradox of modern history remains.

President Kennedy, the man who narrowly defeated Nixon in 1960 by buying an election with the stolen votes of Illinois and Texas, in his less than three years in office, presided over one disaster after another: the Bay of Pigs fiasco, a humiliating face down with Nikita Khrushchev, the Berlin Wall, a demoralizing decline of United States influence and prestige around the world. He vacillated over the Russian build-up in Cuba until almost too late. He and his administration engineered and began our active involvement in the Vietnam War; yet he is fondly remembered at home and abroad as one of the great American presidents. His face is on coins, airports and highways. European streets, monuments, mountains and capes were renamed in his honor; an "eternal flame" burns over his grave. It is likely that had John Kennedy been President during these last

four years and brought about even one or two of the things that Nixon has accomplished, the Swedes would have fallen over themselves awarding him a Nobel Peace Prize and proclaimed him a savior of humanity.

It would seem evident, then, that President Nixon is lacking in some of the qualities that make for greatness. We happen to think that most of his deficiencies lie in the department of "image." If only he had a shock of unruly hair, a toothy winning smile, a breezy charm, a swinger's set of morals, a sexy, international adventuress for a wife, a pack of eastern liberals for friends, and, had he been born a Democrat in Massachusetts, he'd have it made.

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