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THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 1958

# Dick Nixon Replaces Ike As the West's White Hope

By JOSEPH ALSOP

IT'S A queer thing, isn't it? But I really believe there's nothing wrong between Britain and the United States that three months of Nixon's vigor and realism wouldn't cure."

The speaker was an adherent of the British Labour Party, who had been holding forth on the alarmingly ugly present relationship between the two chief Western allies. It struck him as "queer" that he should hold the beliefs he expressed because, like most other Englishmen of his sort, he had formerly thought the vice president was just about as low as a snake's belly.

## ODD AND MYSTIFYING

There really is something very odd and mystifying, moreover, in the almost complete transfor-

mation of the overseas estimate of Richard Nixon. No doubt his generally astute handling of his own difficult position has made an impression, even abroad. No doubt, too, much good has been done by certain specific proofs of the vice president's good sense, such as his sober answer to the silly jokes about the Sputnik that other administration leaders at first lamely attempted.

But in the last analysis, one cannot really pinpoint the ways in which Nixon has changed our allies' common image of him. One can only record the fact that Nixon used to be thought of as a villain and is now thought of as a white hope.

In honesty, alas, it is necessary to add that the happy transformation of the Nixon image is certainly due in part to an unhappy transformation of the Eisenhower

Image. In Britain, in France, and in the other countries of the Western Alliance, no one doubts the President's essential goodness, his high purposes, or his dedication to peace, any more than they do here.

But a very curious thing has happened in the last 12 years. The President of the United States, simply by virtue of his occupancy of the White House, has now become the President of the West as well. This is how President Eisenhower is judged abroad.

## CURIOUSLY PASSIVE

There are plenty of Americans who have always doubted whether the President was right to adopt his curiously passive approach to his great office. They have wondered whether the vast and stormy forces of our times could be mastered by a President who merely presides, who reigns but does not



Nixon's No. 1 Now

In the sad time after the President's recent stroke, the true state of affairs was revealed with harsh clarity. In Britain, for example, the professionally anti-American extreme Left united with the equally anti-American extreme Right in openly praying that the President would hand over his duties to the vice president. They put no further hope in Eisenhower; they had begun to hope much from Nixon; and they said so without pretense of concealment.

All of which only means that the former unity and purpose of the Western Alliance can still be retrieved by the right kind of American leadership, whether or not after it. Irretrievable local details, in the Middle East, for instance, may later render the whole situation irretrievable. But it can still be saved today.

## An Embattled Briton Comes To Call

ABOUT with illness, a new book and a display of his brushwork in the Metropolitan Museum of Art has brought the heroic figure of Winston Churchill back into the spectrum of everyday attention. Occasionally, among the advertisements and reviews of the final volume of his *HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING WORLD*, and the reports of how his paintings are packing the Metropolitan with visitors, and the pictures of the big smile and the big cigar, one sees a little item discussing the political and social problems of the current successor to Churchill at No. 10 Downing Street, Prime Minister Harold Macmillan. But it would appear that the personal health of Churchill attracts far more interest in this country than the political health of his country, a principal U. S. ally.

There are many reasons why this should be so. Besides the remembered radiance of his personality, Churchill is a symbol of a time when leaders seemed at least to be masters of events and when, buoyed by his eloquence, the free nations could contemplate unconditional surrender by the hosts of darkness that seemed on the point of enveloping them. He is a symbol too of indomitable British courage and unity.

But if Churchill has earned a vast reverence, Mr. Macmillan has earned and should be shown during his forthcoming visit to the U. S., a great deal of sympathy and respect. There seems little doubt that a need for new prestige is one motivation for the Macmillan trip. By stepping into the international spotlight, it is reasoned, he hopes to mute somewhat a bitter divisiveness in his own country on matters affecting Anglo-American relations. One of these matters is British bases for U. S. missiles and for planes carrying A-bombs.

Churchill enjoyed a great advantage in governing that is denied Macmillan—national unity in the face of a naked peril. The peril remains but a great number of his countrymen do not agree with Macmillan's steady and stubborn contention that it is centered in the Kremlin. Growing opposition forces find the peril in Western preparedness. In the face of Russian intransigence on a workable disarmament pact, they suggest unilateral disarmament by Britain. There is strong sentiment for stopping nuclear tests, and for stopping U. S. A-bombs from flying over British territory, regardless of the Kremlin's attitude.

The accidental dropping of an A-bomb near Florence, S. C. provoked a bitter assault on Macmillan's position that British must remain behind the shelter of U. S. nuclear weapons. A poll of Oxford University students, given considerable weight in England, found strong sentiment for pacifism among the students. But in the face of all this, even as his Conservative Party continues to lose in the elections, Mr. Macmillan continues to stick by the alliance.

"I can admire those who advocate a pacifist approach to these problems," said Macmillan recently, "but I do not respect them under the cloak of spiritual feelings."

It's a pity that Mr. Churchill can't transfer to the current Prime Minister a little of his prestige. He needs it to rally his country. But it is one of the more distressing results of politics and diplomacy after he has no further need of it.

Mr. Macmillan needs it now, and it is to be hoped that his visit to the U. S. will bestow upon him a bountiful supply of it.

## 'We Just Aim T'Purge Th' Evil—For Y'Own Good'



## A Male Manifesto

# To Blazes With The Shroud

By ROBERT C. RUARK

I WAS in Paris a few weeks ago when the sad sack was just a-borning in the spring shrouds of hant couture. And I reckon then that for the first time trouble was in for some real trouble with her menfolk.

My talent scout has just returned from the wilds of New York. And she says that for the first time in her memory the menfolk are really stamping a foot and speaking in loud clear terms about the ugliest fashion mess that a bunch of Paris delicate boys ever landed on a bunch of sheepie dolls.

There is no doubt that the sack, chemise or old bag — call it what you want to — is the most repulsive piece of drapery that these silly chicks have ever allowed themselves to be conned into. These shrouding shrouds might be used to conceal advanced pregnancy or contraband. But they completely hide the salient points which make women appear differently from men.

## GOOD FOR PAPA

And the men are furious. They don't admire old bags. A campaign has started. And not a very subtle one. Several compellers of the family exchequer have flatly refused to allow so much as a buck to be sent on these jumped-up jehabes. Papa is really quarreling with Mama. And I say good for Papa.

One gent I know, whose wife is a top fashion executive, has a well-planned campaign to insult every member of his wife's clientele that he spots in a shroud. If he should happen to see them later in slacks or slacks he affects great amazement and says, "Thank the Lord, you haven't changed. I thought

those bright red, blue or black long stockings that have just blossomed forth and a most horrid sight I never saw on a leg. And I have come forth with another slogan. This would be, "I am not really a ballet dancer, locked out of her boarding house." Or, simply, "Sorry, I've been skinned and forgot to take off my long drawers."

I speak for a vast segment of the male population when I say completely without kidding, "I will not allow my spouse to appear publicly in these atrocities. Nor will I have one in the house."

If she persists, the joint bank account we have had suddenly becomes deserted. But not one cent of tribute will I pay to those lacy little men in Paris who sit up nights making women ugly or else, as I say just because they don't like girls.

As long as we're on the subject, this Italianated, Frenchified hair, do has got to go as well. You would expect to see the rat's nest of a toupee on some gin-soddy old hag in skid row. And you would expect her to be wearing clothing similar to that which now passes as high style.

## FAIR SEX?

This is one you aren't going to win, ladies. Mostly we put up with high necks one year, low necks the next, dipping skirts and lifted heels. But at least you looked like what used to be called a lady. Now you look like a girl. The fair sex, what you look like now is a sort of unsuccessful Middle Eastern street woman who has forgotten to comb her hair or wash her face. And, frankly, the male revolution is of such dimensions right now that you'd better resign in regard to your looks, you know, rather necessary to the scheme.

—Richard Tones-Dispatch  
 It figures!

## People's Platform

# The Battle's On

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

To Perimeter Dwellers: The forces of evil are about to march again, so let's make a run to Raleigh a little rougher than it was before. Also let's call on our sister counties for moral support in order to keep the same thing from happening that happened in the last session of the North Carolina Legislature.

Who knows? If they are elected again they could well pass laws to annex our adjoining counties to Mecklenburg or the City of Charlotte in gain possession of their assets in order to have more money to squander.

This might sound fantastic but is just as democratic as what has happened before; so therefore get in touch with your committee chairman or any committee member and take due notice thereof, and be governed accordingly.

— R. M. SMALL

Here We Go Again

Should have been executed. So many other people seem to have a warped mind toward life and death. It is my opinion that no one but God has the right or power to pass judgment on a man that he should not live. Although if these men had been close relatives I, too, might have sought revenge due to inventory insanity or frustration.

This, I think, everyone will agree on since we are all human, or are supposed to be. However, this thing has had a week to cool off and still there are many mothers and fathers who are bloodthirsty. Thank God they aren't my parents as I was taught to forgive and try to forget.

Somewhere along the line Frank Weitz missed love and understanding as have many others. Or maybe he was just born that way. Whatever it is, it is up to society and medical science to find an answer, not to a judge and jury to pronounce execution and wipe their hands clean.

We have seen great things and unjust things since the beginning of time and surely we will see even greater things in the future, providing we use what we have learned. It is my opinion that we are great or small we are alive and it is said that it is better to be a living hell than a dead hell. For in the grave there is no knowledge, no love, no praise and no reward. Jesus said, "God is God of all living, not the dead."

I feel that love and understanding and consideration for our fellow man will create a happier, more Christian atmosphere for all. By this I do not intend to advocate the abolishment of prisons — just the electric chair and the gas chamber. For people who cannot or do not adjust themselves to the rules of our society will have to be left in the hands of God and modern medical science for readjustment.

— DONALD G. SMITH

Should State Abolish The Death Penalty?

Editors, The News:

I WOULD like to express my opinion regarding the death penalty. I have had many close personal associations with it.

Sen. Holland of Florida also eulogized "a splendid job" had a "wealth of experience which should highly qualify him," etc.

One Exception

The only senator who bothered to ask critical questions was Mike Monroney, a New Mexican.

Other senators buoyantly, joyously, bravely the Florida commissioner who later was to be fired from the FCC.

Frank Weitz

Orchids To Jewell, Scallions To Lewis

Editors, The News:

THE editorial writer who has meant the decline of humor in these United States ("It is Better To Have Laughed And Lived Than To Have Lived And Laughed") has troubled himself to read the fine letter of James W. Jewell on the same page I am sure he would have found new hope in the reflection that all is not lost.

Speaking of the plight of birds, Mr. Jewell said they were "about like the old-fashioned pioneer boy who never wore any underwear." Would Mark Twain or Leacock create a more humorous metaphor?

True, it's a sad situation nowadays, but clearly not everyone is infected with that abysmally cheap form of comedy so skillfully marketed by Mr. Jerry Lewis.

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