

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

MEETING OF MARYLAND REPUBLICAN STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE  
LORD BALTIMORE HOTEL  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1972

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PERHAPS YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE  
ANCIENT APHORISM -- IT IS OFTEN THE ROBBER HIMSELF WHO IS THE FIRST  
TO CRY, "THIEF." WELL, KEEP IT IN MIND THESE DAYS -- WHEN READING  
THE WASHINGTON POST CRIES OF "SCANDAL, SCANDAL, SCANDAL."

FOR THE GREATEST POLITICAL SCANDAL OF THIS CAMPAIGN IS THE  
BRAZEN MANNER IN WHICH, WITHOUT BENEFIT OF CLERGY, THE WASHINGTON POST  
HAS SET UP HOUSE-KEEPING WITH THE MC GOVERN CAMPAIGN.

WITH HIS CAMPAIGN COLLAPSING AROUND HIS EARS, MR. MC GOVERN,  
SOME WEEKS BACK, BECAME THE BENEFICIARY OF THE MOST EXTENSIVE  
JOURNALISTIC RESCUE-AND-SALVAGE OPERATION IN AMERICAN POLITICS.

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POST'S TACTICS -- DIVERSION

THE GOAL OF THE POST OPERATIONS IS CLEAR: TO DIMINISH SO FAR AS POSSIBLE THE ENORMOUS GAP BETWEEN MR. MC GOVERN AND THE PRESIDENT. THE METHOD EMPLOYED IS THE TIME-HONORED TACTIC OF MASSIVE DIVERSION -- IN THIS CASE, DIVERSION OF PUBLIC ATTENTION AWAY FROM THE RADICAL POSITIONS AND POLITICS OF GEORGE MC GOVERN.

THUS FAR, THE POST'S RESCUE-AND-SALVAGE OPERATION APPEARS A SPECTACULAR FAILURE. AND THE REASONS ARE VISIBLY AT HAND. FIRST, IN RECENT YEARS, THANKS TO VIGOROUS CRITICISM AND COUNTER-ATTACK BY THE TARGETS OF POST VENDETTA -- THE POST'S REPUTATION FOR OBJECTIVITY AND CREDIBILITY HAVE SUNK SO LOW THEY HAVE ALMOST DISAPPEARED FROM THE BIG BOARD ALTOGETHER. SECONDLY, THE POST'S HAND IN THIS DISREPUTABLE ENTERPRISE IS VISIBLE FOR ALL TO SEE.

BUT WHAT ARE THE POST'S MOTIVES?

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FIRST, THERE IS THE COMMUNITY OF IDEOLOGICAL INTEREST BETWEEN THE RADICAL POLICIES OF MR. MC GOVERN, AND HIS RADICAL SUPPORTERS AND THE WASHINGTON POST. THE MC GOVERN POLICIES AND PROGRAMS, WHICH HAVE BROUGHT DOWN UPON HIS HEAD THE WRATH OF WORKINGMEN AND WOMEN EVERYWHERE, ARE THE SELF-SAME POLICIES AND PROGRAMS LONG ADVANCED AND SUPPORTED BY THE EDITORS AND WRITERS OF THE WASHINGTON POST.

SECONDLY, THERE IS A CULTURAL AND SOCIAL AFFINITY BETWEEN THE MC GOVERNITES AND THE POST EXECUTIVES AND EDITORS. THEY BELONG TO THE SAME ELITE; THEY CAN BE FOUND LIVING CHEEK-BY-JOWL IN THE SAME EXCLUSIVE CHIC NEIGHBORHOODS, AND HOB-NOBBING AT THE SAME GEORGETOWN PARTIES. THIRD, THERE IS THE HISTORIC POST HOSTILITY TO THE PERSON AND POLITICAL FORTUNES OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES -- DATING FROM THE DAYS OF ALGER HISS, WHEN THE PRESIDENT WAS PROVEN RIGHT, AND THE POST AND ITS FRIENDS EXPOSED AS GULLIBLE AND NAIVE.



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#### OUTBREAK OF HERBLOCK'S DISEASE

HERBLOCK'S DISEASE, WHICH HAS COURSED THROUGH THE VEINS OF THE WASHINGTON POST FOR A QUARTER CENTURY ATTAINS A PARTICULAR VIRULENCE, QUADRENNIALLY, AROUND ELECTION DAY. THE PRINCIPAL SYMPTOM IS HYPOCRISY.

AS A SINGLE EXAMPLE OF THE POST'S FRAME OF MIND, LET ME RELATE A BRIEF STORY ABOUT ITS PUBLISHER, MRS. KATHERINE GRAHAM. ONE EVENING, NOT SO LONG AGO, A NATIONALLY-KNOWN JOURNALIST SEATED NEXT TO MRS. GRAHAM AT A DINNER PARTY ASKED POLITELY WHY IT WAS HER PUBLICATIONS WERE SO VIRULENT TOWARD THE PRESIDENT, WHEN HE HAD CARRIED OUT POLICIES TOWARD CHINA AND THE SOVIETS, WHICH CLEARLY WERE IN A DIRECTION THEY SUPPORTED. THE ANSWER CAME IN FOUR UNFORGETTABLE WORDS FROM THE LIPS OF MRS. GRAHAM.

"BECAUSE I HATE HIM," SHE SAID. THERE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, YOU HAVE THE WELL-SPRING OF THE POST'S CAMPAIGN NEWS AND EDITORIAL OF THE PAST MONTH.

FURTHER, THESE ELECTION-EVE TACTICS ARE NOT UNFAMILIAR TO THOSE OF US WHO HAVE WORKED BEFORE FOR THE ELECTION OF PRESIDENT NIXON. BACK IN 1968, YOU WILL RECALL, THE WASHINGTON POST WAS FEIGNING SHOCK, HORROR AND INDIGNATION OVER ALLEGED INADVERTENT REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO THEN GOVERNOR SPIRO AGNEW.

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BUT ANYTHING THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT SAID THEN OR SINCE PALES INTO INSIGNIFICANCE ALONGSIDE THE VENOMOUS RHETORIC CURRENTLY EMPLOYED BY MESSRS. MC GOVERN AND SHRIVER, AND THEY WANDER ABOUT THE NATION COMPARING THE PRESIDENT TO ADOLF HITLER, THE REPUBLICAN PARTY TO THE KLU KLUX KLAN, AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE THIRD REICH OF NAZI GERMANY.

THESE RHETORICAL ATROCITIES, HOWEVER, SEEM OF NO CONCERN TO THE WASHINGTON POST, THAT PROFESSED PUBLIC HORROR WHEN MR. AGNEW -- IN RESPONSE TO A HUMPHREY CHARGE THAT MR. NIXON WAS TOO "HARD" ON COMMUNISM, RESPONDED THAT MR. HUMPHREY WAS TOO "SOFT."

#### DOUBLE STANDARD SEEN

AS CLARK MACGREGOR SAID A WEEK AGO, NEVER HAS THE CELEBRATED "DOUBLE STANDARD" OF THE WASHINGTON POST BEEN MORE IN EVIDENCE THAN TODAY.

THIS NEWSPAPER, WHICH MAKES A COMFORTABLE LIVING OFF PUBLISHING STOLEN GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS AND MEMORANDA, WHICH HAPPILY RAN IN ITS NEWS COLUMNS THE PURLOINED TOP SECRET DOCUMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS TODAY HOWLING FOR THE BLOOD OF ANYONE WHO MAY CONCEIVABLY HAVE SEEN THE PURLOINED PAPERS OF MR. LARRY O'BRIEN.

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THIS NEWSPAPER, WHICH CONSIDERS DANIEL ELLSBERG A NATIONAL HERO FOR BETRAYING HIS TRUST AND STEALING TOP SECRET DOCUMENTS TO DAMAGE THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, IS NOW FAKING NAUSEA THAT SOMEONE SHOULD DARE TRY TO GET A LOOK AT THE PRIVATE PAPERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

LET ME LIST A FEW EXAMPLES OF THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP NOW EXISTING BETWEEN THE POST AND MR. MC GOVERN. FIRST, THERE IS MR. MC GOVERN'S TOP POLITICAL STAFFER, MR. FRANK MANKEIWICZ, WHO WAS A FORMER COLUMNIST OF THE WASHINGTON POST, AND THE FAIR-HAIRED BOY OF ITS PUBLISHER. SECONDLY, THE ECONOMIC WRITER FOR THE POST, MR. HOBART ROWAN -- PERHAPS THE MOST ANTI-NIXON ECONOMIC WRITER IN THE COUNTRY -- JUST HAPPENS TO HAVE A SON WHO IS MARRIED TO THE DAUGHTER OF GEORGE MC GOVERN.

THESE MAY BE MERELY COINCIDENCES, OR THEY COULD EXPLAIN A LOT ABOUT THE POST'S REPORTING.

AS AN EXAMPLE, SOME WEEKS AGO, I BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE FEDERAL ELECTIONS OFFICE SEVERAL APPARENT VIOLATIONS BY THE MC GOVERN APPARATUS OF THE LAW REGARDING CAMPAIGN FUND-RAISING.



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NOT LONG AFTER I MADE MY CHARGES, ONE OF THE TWO REPORTERS NOW RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SABOTAGE STORIES, FILED A REPORT ABOUT THEM WHICH WAS CARRIED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE POST. THE STORY INDICATED THAT THE G.A.O. WOULD RELEASE A REPORT DISMISSING ALL OF MY CHARGES AGAINST THE MC GOVERN APPARATUS AS MERE "TECHNICAL VIOLATIONS." THIS STORY, TOO, WAS ATTRIBUTED TO ANONYMOUS SOURCES ALLEGED TO BE CLOSE TO THE G.A.O. INVESTIGATION. MY GUESS IS THAT THE SOURCES WERE CLOSER TO THE WASHINGTON POST OR THE MC GOVERN CAMPAIGN OR BOTH THAN THEY WERE TO THE G.A.O.

IN ANY EVENT, THE OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE G.A.O. FILED SUBSEQUENT TO THE POST STORY, PROVED THAT THE POST, THE STORY, THE REPORTER, AND THE SOURCES -- WHOEVER THEY WERE CLOSE TO -- WERE TOTALLY WRONG.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, GUS HALL OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNIST PARTY WAS REPORTED IN A BANNER STORY IN THE COMMUNIST DAILY WORLD AS HAILING MC GOVERN'S VIETNAM SPEECH AS "A GREAT STEP FORWARD." YOU WOULD HAVE A HARD TIME FINDING THAT IN THE WASHINGTON POST. BUT LET US SUPPOSE THAT IN 1964, THE AMERICAN NAZI PARTY, AND GEORGE LINCOLN ROCKWELL, HAD PUBLICLY PROCLAIMED THE MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY ADDRESS OF BARRY GOLDWATER A "GREAT STEP FORWARD."

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WHEN ONE IMAGINES THE TREATMENT THE LATTER WOULD HAVE RECEIVED AGAINST THE TREATMENT THE FORMER GOT -- YOU HAVE ONE MEASURE OF THE "DOUBLE STANDARD" OF THE WASHINGTON POST.

NOW, GEORGE MC GOVERN IS NO MORE A COMMUNIST THAN BARRY GOLDWATER WAS A FASCIST -- BUT WITH THE FORMER, THE POST IS ESPECIALLY CAREFUL ABOUT GUILT BY ASSOCIATION WITH HIS SUPPORTERS -- WHEREAS, WITH THE LATTER, IT WAS NOT.

POST TO THE RESCUE

FURTHER, THE WASHINGTON POST COMPANY IS INVARIABLY FIRST TO THE RESCUE WHEN GEORGE MC GOVERN RUNS AFOUL OF HIS OWN POSITIONS. WHEN THE COUNTRY WAS COMING TO BELIEVE GEORGE MC GOVERN A RADICAL, IT WAS NEWSWEEK, THE LITTLE SISTER AND STABLEMATE OF THE POST, THAT CAME TO THE RESCUE IN A MAJOR PIECE EXPLAINING HOW "CONSERVATIVE" MC GOVERN WAS. WHEN THE NATION WAS AWAKENING TO THE IMPACT ON AMERICAN SECURITY OF MC GOVERN'S PROPOSED \$32 BILLION IN DEFENSE CUTS, IT WAS THE POST'S GEORGE WILSON WHO CAME TO THE RESCUE IN THE OUTLOOK SECTION WITH A CAMPAIGN BROCHURE CALLING THIS DISCIPLE OF HENRY AGARD WALLACE A "DISCIPLE OF EISENHOWER."



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NOT SURPRISINGLY, MR MC GOVERN -- THEN AS TODAY -- WAS OUT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE REPEATING THE BLESSING THAT HE HAD RECEIVED, NOT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AFTER THE CEREMONY AT THE WASHINGTON POST.

BUT, NOW, MORE ON THAT UNNATURAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SENATOR AND THE POST.

DOES IT NOT SEEM STRANGE THAT MR. E. B. WILLIAMS, THE DEMOCRATS' UNPAID ATTORNEY IN THE WATERGATE CIVIL TRIAL IS ALSO THE ATTORNEY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST. IS IT NOT JUST A LITTLE ODD THAT THE IRREPRESSIBLE LARRY O'BRIEN -- WHO HAS FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO CONTAIN HIS ENTHUSIASM -- PREDICTS NEW "REVELATIONS" IN THE WATERGATE CAPER, JUST BEFORE :THEY APPEAR IN THE WASHINGTON POST? THIS PAST WEEKEND, HE WAS PROMISING STILL NEW PRESS "REVELATIONS" -- AND WE CAN EXPECT THE POST TO PERFORM ON CUE.

#### CUSTOMARY PIETY OF POST

NOW, LET US TURN DIRECTLY TO THIS MATTER OF THE WATERGATE CAPER AND ITS HANDLING IN THE PAGES OF THE POST.

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TEN MONTHS AGO, IN A CUSTOMARILY PIOUS STATEMENT, MR. BEN BRADLEE, SAID "...IT IS NOW THE POLICY OF THE WASHINGTON POST, IN ITS COVERAGE OF GOVERNMENT NEWS BRIEFINGS, TO INSIST ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PUBLIC BUSINESS...THE PUBLIC INTEREST IS NOT SERVED BY PERMITTING STATEMENTS OF POLICY TO BE MADE BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO ARE UNWILLING TO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR OWN WORDS." (emphasis added) BRADLEE CALLED THE UNATTRIBUTED INFORMATION IN BACKGROUND BRIEFINGS A "DECEPTION" AND SAID, "WE HAVE DONE THIS DISSERVICE TO THE READER LONG ENOUGH."

FROM SUBSEQUENT PERFORMANCES, MR. BRADLEE SHOULD HAVE QUALIFIED WHAT HE SAID. HE SHOULD HAVE SAID THAT THE POST WOULD TAKE ONLY UNATTRIBUTED INFORMATION WHICH WORKED TO DAMAGE THE PRESIDENT -- AND NONE WHICH REFLECTED FAVORABLY UPON THE PRESIDENT.

FOR THE POST, IN THE WATERGATE VENDETTA, HAS RELIED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY UPON LEAKED, UNATTRIBUTED, AND ANONYMOUS SOURCES -- AND UNATTRIBUTED CHARGES.

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IN THE POST'S HIERARCHY OF VALUES, IF DR. KISSINGER REPORTS ON BACKGROUND MOVEMENT AT PARIS -- THAT IS TOO DEEPLY OFFENSIVE AS TO FORCE POST REPORTERS TO WALK OUT OF THE BRIEFING. HOWEVER, IF SOME THIRD ECHELON PAPER-SHUFFLER IN THE BOWELS OF THE BUREAUCRACY HAS A SUFFICIENTLY HORRIBLE ADJECTIVE TO CHARACTERIZE THE PRESIDENT'S CAMPAIGN STAFF -- WHY, THAT SHOULD BE RUN HIGH, AND UNATTRIBUTED.

POST QUOTES MC GOVERN QUOTING POST, ETC.

HERE IS HOW THE POST CAMPAIGN HAS WORKED.

USING AN UNNAMED SOURCE, THE POST MAKES AN UNSUBSTANTIATED CHARGE THAT THE PRESIDENT'S CAMPAIGN OPERATION HAD FIFTY "AGENTS" WORKING, IN THE POST'S SCREAMER HEADLINE, TO "SABOTAGE" THE DEMOCRATS. THEN, MR. MC GOVERN, OUT ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL, SAYS THAT THE PRESIDENT ORDERED 50 SABOTEURS OUT AGAINST THE DEMOCRATS. THEN THE POST REPORTERS COME HUMPING OVER TO THE WHITE HOUSE FOR IMMEDIATE EXPLANATIONS AND DENIALS -- SO THAT THE NEXT DAY THEY CAN RUN ANOTHER SCREAMER HEADLINE SAYING: "WHITE HOUSE DENIED 50 SABOTEURS." AND ONE AND ON AND ON -- THE OBJECT BEING TO DIVERT PUBLIC ATTENTION AWAY FROM THE CRAZY MC GOVERN SCHEMES ON WELFARE, DEFENSE, AMNESTY AND FOREIGN POLICY.



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AND WHAT HAS BEEN PROVEN?

MR. MUSKIE MAKES CLAIMS ABOUT SOMEONE SENDING HIS PLANE TO THE WRONG STOP AND TWO HUNDRED UNORDERED PIZZAS SHOWING UP AT HIS FUND-RAISER.

BUT THE PUBLIC HAS A RIGHT TO ASK: A) DOES THIS KIND OF HANKY-PANKY DESERVE THE SCARE-TYPE HEADLINES; B) HAS ANY REPUBLICAN INVOLVEMENT BEEN PROVEN; C) WHO WAS THE PRINCIPAL BENEFICIARY OF THE MUSKIE COLLAPSE? WAS IT NOT MC GOVERN HIMSELF? AND D) WHAT ABOUT REPORTS LIKE THAT IN THE ATLANTIC CONSTITUTION OF LAST AUGUST INDICATING ESTABLISHMENT BY THE MC GOVERN CAMPAIGN OF A NETWORK OF POLITICAL SPIES WITH SOME 50 AGENTS ASSIGNED TO INVESTIGATING TOP-LEVEL REPUBLICANS?

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EVERY CAMPAIGN I HAVE EVER SEEN, INCLUDING THE MC GOVERN CAMPAIGN, HAS WITHIN IT ZEALOTS AND SELF-STARTERS WHO CONSIDER IT THEIR HIGHEST CALLING TO PULL PRANKS AND HOAXES ON THE OPPOSITION. THIS IS POLITICAL HAND-BALL AND THE DEMOCRAT, MR. DICK TUCK, WAS THE MAN WHO INVESTED AND ADVANCED THE GAME.

IT IS ONLY THE WASHINGTON POST, HOWEVER, WHICH IGNORES AND DISREGARDS DEMONSTRATED EXAMPLES OF MC GOVERN HANKY-PANKY AGAINST THE PRESIDENT AND OTHER DEMOCRATS -- AND BANNERS UNPROVEN ALLEGATIONS OF REPUBLICAN TRICKS PLAYED UPON THE MC GOVERNITES.

IT IS ONLY THE WASHINGTON POST WHICH DELIBERATELY MIXES TOGETHER ILLEGAL AND UNETHICAL EPISODES, LIKE THE WATERGATE CAPER, WITH SHENANIGANS WHICH HAVE BEEN THE STOCK-IN-TRADE OF POLITICAL PRANKSTERS FROM THE DAY I CAME INTO POLITICS.

WHO IN POLITICS HAS NOT HEARD THE STORY OF THE DEWEY OPERATIVES WHO ALLEGEDLY COMBED SKID ROW FOR 25 WORTHIES TO EMBRACE PHYSICALLY THE DELEGATES ENTERING THE CANDIDATES' HOTEL AT THE '48 CONVENTION -- YELLING, "VOTE FOR STASSEN." WHO HAS NOT HEARD OF DICK TUCK'S ORDER TO THE ENGINEER ON THE NIXON TRAIN TO PULL OUT OF THE STATION -- JUST AS THE CANDIDATE BEGAN TO SPEAK? AND, TODAY, TO SEE THE WASHINGTON POST FEIGN MORAL OUTRAGE, HORROR AND SHOCK, OVER SIMILAR EXERCISES -- AND FOR MR. MC GOVERN WHOSE OPERATIVES ARE VETERANS IN THIS SORT OF THING -- TO ECHO THE CRY -- AMOUNTS TO UNVARNISHED HYPOCRISY.

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CAN'T TAKE OWN MEDICINE

THE POST, HOWEVER, WHICH HAS LONG ENJOYED DISHING IT OUT, HAS YET TO DEMONSTRATE THE CAPACITY TO TAKE ITS OWN MEDICINE. IT'S FINE FOR THEM TO LIBEL THE PRESIDENT AND THE WHITE HOUSE, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO TAKING THEIR OWN MEDICINE, THE POST HAS ALWAYS HAD A WEAK STOMACH.

LAST WEEK, AFTER CLARK MAC GREGOR AND I GAVE BACK TO THE POST A SMALL DOSAGE OF WHAT IT HAS BEEN GIVING US -- MR. BRADLEE RAN OFF TO BOSTON AND IN A NEAR HYSTERICAL SPEECH, TO A SIGMA DELTA CHI CHAPTER, CRIED OUT THAT THE "NIXON ADMINISTRATION IS COMMITTED TO OUR DESTRUCTION," HE THEN TURNED AROUND AND CHASTISED HIS COLLEAGUES FOR NOT BALLY-HOOING THE WATERGATE CAPER THE WAY THE POST HAD BEEN DOING.

NOW MR. BRADLEE, AN OLD KENNEDY COAT-HOLDER IS ENTITLED TO HIS VIEWS. BUT WHEN HE ALLOWS HIS PAPER TO BE USED AS A POLITICAL INSTRUMENT OF THE MC GOVERNITE CAMPAIGN; WHEN HE HIMSELF TRAVELS AROUND THE COUNTRY AS A SMALL-BORE MC GOVERN SURROGATE -- THEN HE AND HIS PUBLICATION SHOULD EXPECT APPROPRIATE TREATMENT -- WHICH THEY WILL, WITH REGULARITY RECEIVE.



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IN CONCLUSION, LET ME SAY -- THE OPERATIVE STANDARDS OF THE WASHINGTON POST STORIES ON THE WATERGATE AFFAIR HAVE NOT BEEN JOURNALISTIC IN CHARACTER, BUT POLITICAL. THE SPACING AND TIMING OF THE STORIES HAS NOT BEEN DONE ACCORDING TO A JOURNALISTIC TIMETABLE -- BUT AN ELECTION TIMETABLE. THE HOLDING BACK OF STORIES UNTIL THE SUNDAY EDITION IS NOT A JOURNALISTIC, BUT A POLITICAL DECISION. THE SIZE AND CHARACTER OF HUGE BANNER HEADLINES HAS NOT BEEN DICTATED BY THE SUBSTANCE OF THE STORY, BUT BY THE POLITICAL DESIRE TO INFLICT MAXIMUM POSSIBLE DAMAGE UPON THE PRESIDENT, AND TO GENERATE MAXIMUM CONFUSION AND CONCERN WITH THE ELECTORATE.

ARE WE REALLY TO BELIEVE THAT THIS CAREFULLY STAGED PRESENTATION OF STORIES, EACH WITH A SAUCIER HEADLINE, MARCHING INEXORABLY UP TOWARD ELECTION DAY, HAPPENED BY ACCIDENT -- AS THE NEWS CAME TO THE REPORTERS?

THAT IS ASKING TOO MUCH TO BELIEVE.

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THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THE POST HAS SOUGHT IN THE CLOSING DAYS OF A CAMPAIGN TO RAISE A FUROR TO DIVERT PUBLIC ATTENTION TO SAVE A CANDIDATE OF ITS IDEOLOGY. IT WILL NOT BE THE LAST. AND IF THE EDITORS AND EXECUTIVES OF THE WASHINGTON POST WANT TO KNOW TODAY WHY THEY ARE NOT ACCORDED THE DEFERENCE OF A DEBUTANTE, IT IS SIMPLY BECAUSE WE HAVE CAUGHT THEM -- RED-HANDED -- ONCE TOO OFTEN.

IN FACT, THE POST LACKS ONLY ONE THING TO MAKE ITS ALLIANCE WITH THE MC GOVERN CAMPAIGN COMPLETE. TO DATE, IT HAS NOT YET SOLEMNIZED ITS TROTH WITH MC GOVERN BY EDITORIAL ENDORSEMENT, AND I WOULD CALL UPON MR. BRADLEE, ET AL, TO BE DONE WITH THIS RITUAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THE POST HAS SSPREAD ITS POLITICAL CONVICTIONS ALL THROUGH ITS "NEWS" REPORTAGE OF THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS. IT SHOULD NOW, AT LEAST, DEMONSTRATE THE COURAGE OF THOSE CONVICTIONS BY BRINGING THEM OUT IN THE OPEN WITH A FORTHRIGHT, OUTRIGHT EENDORSEMENT ON THE EDITORIAL PAGE, RATHER THAN KEEPING THEM ON THE FRONT PAGE WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN MASQUERADING AS JOURNALISTIC OBJECTIVITY.

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MC GOVERN -- CARICATURE OF CANDIDATE

THE POST'S HESITANCY TO DO SO, HOWEVER, MAY BE AS UNDERSTANDABLE AS ITS CARTOONISTS APPARENT DISINCLINATION TO TREAT SENATOR MC GOVERN AS A SUITABLE TARGET FOR HIS BARBS. IT IS UNDERSTANDABLY DIFFICULT TO CARICATURIZE A MAN WHO IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS HAS PROVEN HIMSELF NO MORE, AT BEST, THAN THE VERY CARICATURE OF A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE.

MC GOVERN'S CANDIDACY HAS BROUGHT HIM TO SUCH A PASS THAT HARDLY ANYONE, SAVE THOSE WHO ARE MOST VIRULENTLY ANTI-NIXON, CAN SINCERELY DEFEND THE SENATOR AS A CANDIDATE WITH PROVEN PRESIDENTIAL QUALITIES. IT'S BECOME EMBARRASSINGLY CLEAR THAT HE JUST DOESN'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE PRESIDENT. AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, IN THEIR WISDOM, WILL PROVE THOSE FEW ZEALOTS WHO THINK OTHERWISE, LIKE MC GOVERN HIMSELF, WRONG AT THE FINISH.

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