

## THE SUBVERSION OF AMERICA

IF POLITICAL TYRANNY EVER COMES TO AMERICA, IT IS LIKELY TO ARRIVE NOT IN THE GUISE OF SOME ALIEN IDEOLOGY SUCH AS COMMUNISM OR NAZIISM, BUT RATHER IN A UNIQUELY AMERICAN WAY UNDER THE GUISE OF PRESERVING THIS COUNTRY'S TRADITIONAL VALUES. INSTEAD OF TYRANNY BEING THE DRAMATIC CULMINATION OF RADICAL PROTEST AND REVOLUTION, IT MAY COME UPON US SILENTLY AND SLOWLY, ENSHROUDING US ALL.

WHAT MAKES THE WATERGATE SCANDAL SUCH A PROFOUNDLY SINISTER EVENT IS BECAUSE SO MANY OF ITS ASPECTS REFLECT AN AUTHORITARIAN TURN OF MIND, AND A READY WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF THOSE AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT TO SUBVERT DEMOCRATIC VALUES AND PRACTICES. TYRANNY WAS NOT YET A FACT, BUT A DRIFT TOWARDS TYRANNY — TOWARDS CURTAILING AND IMPAIRING ESSENTIAL FREEDOMS — WAS WELL UNDERWAY UNTIL THE WATERGATE SCANDAL SERVED TO ALERT THE NATION TO THE DANGER. THAT IS WHAT SENATOR LOWELL WEICKER, THE CONNECTICUT REPUBLICAN, HAD IN MIND WHEN HE REFERRED ON THE OPENING DAY OF THE SENATE HEARINGS TO THE PERPRETRATORS OF WATERGATE AS THE MEN WHO "ALMOST STOLE AMERICA."

WHAT WOULD CONSTITUTE TYRANNY IN THE UNITED STATES? IT WOULD INVOLVE REDUCING CONGRESS TO A PERIPHERAL ROLE IN MAKING GOVERNMENT POLICY. IT WOULD INVOLVE DISCREDITING

THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION, SURPRESSING THE MORE AGGRESSIVE FORMS OF DISSENT, INTIMIDATING TELEVISION, RADIO AND THE PRESS, STAFFING THE COURTS WITH ONE'S OWN SUPPORTERS, AND CENTRALIZING ALL OF THE EXECUTIVE POWER IN THE HANDS OF THE PRESIDENT AND HIS ANONYMOUS, TOTALLY DEPENDENT AIDES. DURING HIS YEARS IN OFFICE THERE SHOULD BE NO QUESTION THAT PRESIDENT NIXON HAS MADE RECOGNIZABLE PROGRESS TOWARD ALL OF THESE OBJECTIVES.

THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT NIXON ASPIRES TO DICTATORIAL AUTHORITY FOR HIMSELF, BUT THERE IS ABUNDANT PROOF THAT HE SEEKS TO ALTER THE BALANCE BETWEEN THE POWER OF GOVERNMENT AND THE LIBERTIES OF THE INDIVIDUAL CITIZEN. THERE IS EVIDENCE, TOO, THAT MR. NIXON'S GUIDING PHILOSOPHY IS THAT THE ENDS JUSTIFY THE MEANS.

VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE MAJOR FIGURES IN HIS POLITICAL ENTOURAGE — NIXON'S CAMPAIGN MANAGER, NIXON'S DEPUTY CAMPAIGN MANAGER, NIXON'S CHIEF FUND RAISER, NIXON'S WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL, NIXON'S PERSONAL ATTORNEY, NIXON'S WHITE HOUSE STAFF CHIEF, NIXON'S DOMESTIC POLICY CHIEF, AND NIXON'S APPOINTMENTS SECRETARY, HAVE NOW BEEN IMPLICATED IN ALLEGEDLY ILLEGAL OR UNETHICAL BEHAVIOR. SO MANY INDIVIDUALS ALREADY IMPLICATED CANNOT BE AN ACCIDENT. THEIR PRESENCE IN THE TOP LEVEL OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION REFLECTS A PHILOSOPHY OF RUTHLESS PRAGMATISM.

A LIVELY COMPETITION BETWEEN THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES IS AT THE HEART OF THE AMERICAN POLITICAL EXPERIENCE. TO RIG THAT COMPETITION IN AN ELECTION YEAR BY TRYING TO "FRAME" THE CHAIRMAN OF THE OTHER PARTY, BY TAPPING THE TELEPHONES, STEALING THE MAIL AND "BUGGING THE OFFICES" OF THE OPPOSITION POLITICIANS, AND BY SABOTAGING THE CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES OF OPPOSITION CANDIDATES AND COLLECTING INFORMATION TO BLACKMAIL THEM — TO TRY TO RIG THE OUTCOME OF AN AMERICAN ELECTION IN THIS DESPICABLE FASHION IS TO SUBVERT DEMOCRACY AND SELF-GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE.

IN HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE WATERGATE COMMITTEE, JEB STUART MAGRUDER EXPLAINED THE ETHICAL BASIS OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S ACTIONS ON THE GROUNDS THAT PUBLIC OFFICIALS HAD BECOME "SOMEWHAT INURED" TO ILLEGAL ACTIVITY BECAUSE OF ALL THE YEARS OF CONTENDING WITH ANTI-WAR PROTESTORS WHO VIOLATED THE LAWS DELIBERATELY. BUT THOSE WHO OPENLY AND PEACEFULLY VIOLATE THE LAW IN OBEDIENCE TO THEIR CONSCIENCE DO SO BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE THEIR MORAL WITNESS WILL HELP SOCIETY TO CHANGE AN UNJUST LAW OR AN UNJUST POLICY. SUCH PROTESTS EMULATING GHANDI, THOREAU, MARTIN LUTHER KING AND OTHER APOSTLES OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE ARE PREPARED TO GO TO JAIL FOR VIOLATING THE LAW EVEN THOUGH THEY THINK THE LAW IS UNJUST.

I AM NOT PRETENDING THAT DEMOCRATS HAVE ALWAYS WORN THE WHITE HATS. WE ARE WELL AWARE OF OUR OWN SHORTCOMINGS AND HAVE NEVER BEEN VERY GOOD AT HIDING THEM, BUT WHEN THE PUBLIC TRUST IN OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM IS AT STAKE, THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAS THE OVERRIDING RESPONSIBILITY TO SEE TO IT THAT THE PEOPLE ARE TOLD ALL THE TRUTH, AND LET THE CHIPS FALL WHERE THEY MAY.

BECAUSE OF THIS, THERE SHOULD BE NO QUESTION THAT THE BURDEN IS ON PRESIDENT NIXON TO COME FORWARD AND FULLY AND FAIRLY STATE WHAT HE DID AND DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THE EVENTS OF WATERGATE. PRESIDENT NIXON IS A MAN WHO HAS TALKED MUCH OF LAW AND ORDER. PRESIDENT NIXON HAS SPOKEN MUCH OF HONOR, BOTH PERSONAL, AND THAT OF OUR COUNTRY. HIS HIGHEST AND CLOSEST AIDES ARE NOW FOUND TO BE IMPLICATED IN THE MOST FAR-REACHING POLITICAL CONSPIRACY IN AMERICAN HISTORY. WITHOUT MAKING PREJUDGMENTS OF WHO IS GUILTY OF WHAT, IT IS NOW OBVIOUS TO ALL OF US THAT THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS HAS BEEN SUBVERTED. JUSTICE HAS BEEN OBSTRUCTED. LAWS HAVE BEEN BROKEN. PEOPLE HAVE LIED.

IF FAITH IN OUR GOVERNMENT, IF FAITH IN OUR COUNTRY, IF THE PEOPLE'S FAITH, IS GOING TO BE RESTORED, THEN LEADERSHIP MUST BE PROVIDED BY AN HONEST AND TRUTHFUL PRESIDENT. BY FAILING TO COME FORWARD, BY FAILING TO ANSWER THE NUMEROUS QUESTIONS THAT HAVE ARISEN IN THE WATERGATE SENATE COMMITTEE, THE PRESIDENT WILL FURTHER ADD TO THE SUBVERSION OF OUR COUNTRY.