

## Tape Recorder in Sky

By Robert E. Segal

In "The Facts About Nixon," William Costello relates that when Richard M. Nixon was a new boy in the new law school at Duke 40 years ago, he was so poor that he couldn't afford to live in the dormitory. "So at first," as Mr. Nixon himself told the story, "I stayed at a downtown boarding house with fourteen preachers. But I had to move because of the noise."

In these troubled times for Mr. Nixon, there has been a new kind of noise coming from contemporary preachers. A part of it is the noise made by Rabbi Baruch Korff of Rehoboth, Massachusetts, and a part by Father John McLaughlin of Rhode Island and the White House. Then there was the noise on behalf of Mr. Nixon by a Baptist, Rev. Ross Moyer, who looked heavenward and asked the Almighty "for divine attention to a malicious press corps," going on to tip off God that the people of the press are "Enemies of world peace."

So here we have spiritual leaders -- Jewish, Catholic and Protestant -- working hard on

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Mr. Nixon's behalf; and why not? It's a fine old nation, and as long as the vilified press is free to report the calumnies laid upon it by men of the cloth, we may be sure we shall overcome.

Rabbi Korff, as most folks know, has headed the Citizens Committee For Fairness To The Presidency. Repeatedly and passionately he climbed the tower to fight for the President and, incidentally, to get publicity for his book, "The Personal Nixon: Staying On The Summit."

In the heat of Mr. Nixon's battle, Rabbi Korff assured the then-President that he knew that Mr. Nixon had "not an ounce of prejudice" in him. Quite true, said Mr. Nixon, citing as evidence his appointment of Walter Annenberg as our ambassador to England despite objections of "the so-called Eastern elite." Offered a similar lead by Rabbi Korff for giving the mass media what for, Mr. Nixon blamed "the ideology of newsmen" for some of his Watergate troubles. Had he been a liberal, he opined, Watergate would have been ignored.

But not even Mr. Nixon was as harsh with the press as was Rabbi Korff. Said he: "I can't think of a red light district...more con-

temptible than the Washington Post, the New York Times and the Boston Globe...They are prostitutes for power and profit."

(By contrast, many Jews and other lovers of truth, now thank a vigilant press for revealing that along the rocky road to resignation, Mr. Nixon ludicrously downgraded both the Arts and the Jews in one sweeping judgment.)

In his celebrated interview with Mr. Nixon, Rabbi Korff praised the former President for "standing alone" in providing Israel with the means to emerge undefeated from the Yom Kippur War. (Henry Kissinger was curled up with a good book in those trying days?)

Rabbi Korff has certainly been entitled to put his talents to work for Mr. Nixon. Many agree with and applaud him, all approving Mr. Nixon's actions and behavior. But fortunately, most people in the Jewish and the general community alike have been sickened by what they regard as a sacred trust at the summit of American power and American leadership. They make little noise but are confident that the Big Tape Recorder in the Sky allows for no erasures.

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