

RICHARD NIXON: the human side?



Salt: Mr. Nixon, few people realize that the President is a real human being just like everyone else. Tell us something about your personal life.

Nixon: Let me say this about that . . .

Salt: What we really mean is can you prove to us that there is something beneath that tough, mere exterior. For a starter what kinds of food do you like?

Nixon: Plain simple, wholesome, American cooking. Like cottage cheese with ketchup on it. Or possibly knishes with blueberry jam.

Salt: Is this what you normally eat?

Nixon: Certainly. I certainly wouldn't eat any of that government inspected stuff like beef or salted cod. I only eat organically grown vegetables. Pat (ed. note "The President's wife, Mrs. Nixon") has a little garden you know. We call it the "Whitehouse Hothouse." Not to be confused with my office naturally.

Salt: Of course.

Nixon: Naturally.

Salt: You bet. Moving right along now, does Mrs. Nixon, Pat if we may.

Nixon: You may not.

Salt: . . . ever get a chance to cook?

Nixon: Do you seriously think I would let that woman . . . No, let me rephrase that. Mrs. Nixon doesn't cook. But she is coming out with a cook book in the near future though. It will be entitled "My Six Casseroles." Mrs. Nixon has been showing "The Little Women" (ed. note—Julie and Patricia the President's daughters) how to do some marvelous things in the kitchen. Julie can even, I believe the phrase is, fry water now. Maybe that is why David (ed. note—David Eisenhower, grandson of the late President Dwight David Eisenhower who is married to the former Julie Nixon, the President's daughter) always looks so spaced.

Salt: What else does the first lady do around the house?

Nixon: Set up an appointment with her social secretary and I am sure she will be, and let me emphasize this, more than happy to let you view her daily routine.

Salt: Which is probably one hell of a whiz bang affair. Now that they have taken the pool out of the White House, what do you do for exercise?

Nixon: I occasionally take a dip in the reflection pond at the Washington monument. I went out there about 5:30 last Saturday and it was a little crowded so I went home and watched a taped replay of the Texas-Arkansas football game.

Salt: How is your golf game coming?

Nixon: Peachy, just fine. I'm getting so good now I even beat Billy (ed. note—Billy Graham, noted theologian and White House confidant) one game out of three. I've been teaching Spiro (ed. note—Vice President Spiro Agnew) trick shots too.

Salt: Have you been invited to play in any tournaments this year?

Nixon: No.

Salt: Are there any games you especially enjoyed such as poker or gin or maybe—war?

Nixon: I used to play a very aggressive game of Monopoly, but since I became president and my time has been limited I have been forced to concentrate on Chinese Checkers and dominos. I really would like to play some Chinese checker professionals but they are all in China. I have been moving to alleviate that problem.

Salt: Have you been invited to any tournaments lately?

Nixon: No.

Salt: We are sure you were very disappointed that you were unable to throw the first ball of the season at the Senator's game.

Nixon: Yes, I was very disappointed but I think it was a good opportunity for David (ed. note—the President's son-in-law) to prove to the American public that he really isn't a weenie arm.

Salt: We realize that you have a very busy schedule but when you get a chance to view the tube what programs do you watch?

Nixon: Well, I do like to watch "Rat Patrol" Mrs. Nixon going to the Senate, the



"Bold Ones" before going to bed. Back in California I used to watch "Mission Impossible." During the campaign I thoroughly enjoyed "The Avengers." Now one of my favorite shows is "It Takes A Thief." I also like game shows.

Salt: All right, which ones?

Nixon: "To Tell the Truth," "Let's Make a Deal," and sometimes I watch "The Dating Game" with Tricia (ed. note—the President's unmarried daughter.) I also like "What's My Line."

Salt: What exactly is your line Mr. President?

Nixon: I want to make one thing perfectly clear. I am THE PRESIDENT, (ed. note—President of the United States) makes no mistake about that.

Salt: Speaking of your daughter Tricia, is there any truth to the rumor that she is interested in Prince Charles of Great Britain?

Nixon: My little queen can have the pick of the cream of the crop. I am sure Chuck is a fine boy and that he does come from a fine family. Although I must confess I don't know too much about him.

Salt: You are what fashion editors call a "snappy dresser." It has recently been announced that you have made the list of the 10 Best Dressed Living American President's. Would you care to comment on your clothes.

Nixon: When it comes to shirts, white is right for me. I used to be very hesitant about wearing dark suits but since I switched to Head and Shoulders I only wear dark suits.

Salt: We noticed.

Nixon: I like wing tip and brogue shoes. They have a lot of sole. (ed. note—that was President Nixon's attempt at a joke.)

Salt: Now for a few quick questions. Are you right or left handed?

Nixon: I've always thought of myself as ambidextrous, but you could say I favor my right hand.

Salt: Do you like to dance?

Nixon: I'm glad you asked that, I love to dance. In fact I've originated my own dance step, one step forward, two steps back, one step forward, two steps back.

Salt: Read any good books lately?

Nixon: I started "War and Peace" when I was Vice President (ed. note—Vice President under the late President Dwight D. Eisenhower) and I'm about half-way through.

Salt: Do you have any personal philosophy that you would like to explain to our readers?

Nixon: I've always been interested in Medieval Philosophy. . . .

Salt: Thank you Mr. President.