

## RICHARD NIXON IN HIS OWN WORDS

"Now, finally, I know that you wonder whether or not I am going to stay on the Republican ticket or resign. Let me say this: I don't believe that I ought to quit, because I'm not a quitter."

— Sept. 18, 1952,  
from the Checkers speech

"From that point on I had the wisdom and wariness of someone who had been burned by the power of the Kennedys and their money and by the license they were given by the media. I vowed that I would never again enter an election at a disadvantage by being vulnerable to them — or anyone — on the level of political tactics."

— On losing to John F. Kennedy,  
from "Memoirs" (1978)

"You won't have Nixon to kick around any more because, gentlemen, this is my last press conference."

— Nov. 7, 1962, after losing  
the California governor's race

"I have never thought much of the notion that the presidency makes a man presidential. What has given the American presidency its vitality is that each man remains distinctive. His abilities become more obvious, and his faults become more glaring. The presidency is not a finishing school. It is a magnifying glass."

— From "Memoirs"

"Chou En-lai stood at the foot of the ramp, hatless in the cold. Even a heavy overcoat did not hide the thinness of his frail body. . . . I knew that Chou had been deeply insulted by Foster Dulles' refusal to shake hands with him at the Geneva Conference in 1954. When I reached the bottom step, therefore, I made a point of extending my hand as I walked toward him. When our hands met, one era ended and another began."

— On his February 1972 visit  
to China, from "Memoirs"

"My reaction to the Watergate break-in was completely pragmatic. If it was also cynical, it was a cynicism born of experience. I had been in politics too long and seen everything from dirty tricks to vote fraud. I



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After his defeat in the 1962 California governor's race by Edmund G. (Pat) Brown, Nixon told reporters in Los Angeles, 'You won't have Nixon to kick around any more'

could not muster much moral outrage over a political bugging. . . ."

— From "Memoirs"

"I don't give a (expletive deleted) what happens. I want you all to stonewall it, let them plead the Fifth Amendment, cover up or anything else, if it'll save it — save the plan."

— March 22, 1973, instructions to aide John Dean, from the Watergate tapes

"People have got to know whether or not their president is a crook. Well, I am not a crook. I earned everything I've got."

— Nov. 17, 1973, in  
a speech in Orlando, Fla.

"Dear Mr. Secretary, I hereby resign the Office of President of the United States. Sincerely, Richard Nixon."

— August 1974 resignation letter,  
addressed to then-Secretary of State  
Henry Kissinger

"I have never been a quitter. To leave office before my term is com-

pleted is opposed to every instinct in my body. But as president I must put the interests of America first. America needs a full-time president and a full-time Congress."

— Aug. 8, 1974,  
announcing his resignation

"Nobody will ever write a book, probably, about my mother. Well, I guess all of you would say this about your mother: My mother was a saint."

— Aug. 9, 1974,  
remarks to White House staff

"In the end what matters is that you have always lived life to the hilt. I have won some great victories and suffered some devastating defeats. But win or lose, I feel fortunate to have come to that time in life when I can finally enjoy what my Quaker grandmother would have called 'peace at the center.'"

— From his book  
"In the Arena" (1990)

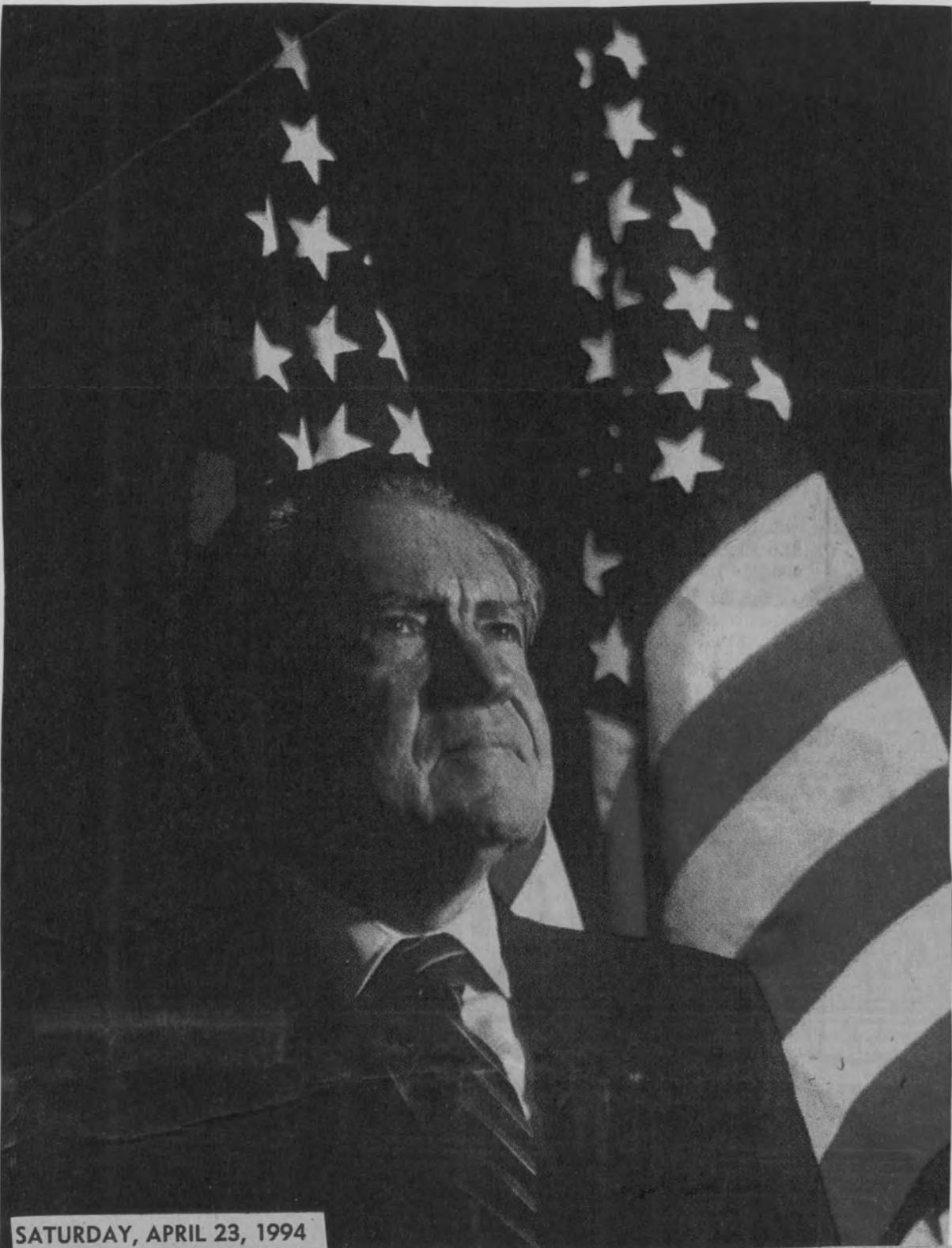
I'm not going to be the first American president who loses a war.

Richard Nixon  
October 1969



NIXON AT DIAN (1969)





SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1994

# Nixon Dies at 81