Commentary:

Nixon: a psychological ambivalence

By Bruce Latich

In the following article, written about a month ago (based on his recently published book, "In Search of Nixon.") Psychologist Professor Bruce Latich attempts to discern from a non- partisan viewpoint some of the psychological factors that are behind the actions of President Richard Nixon.

By Bruce Latich

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Americans have long been searching for Richard Nixon, for a guiding purpose behind his apparent contradictions, for the man they believe has been forever perplexed by his sudden turns-about — from a boy in the Wisconsin district to the Peking summit, from free-market economics to the wage-price freeze. Just as they think they have him in their sights, Richard Nixon is off again on another spree of ambivalence.

there is, for some reason, a great reluctance to accept the fact that a central Nixon theme is a psychological ambivalence itself. After all, ambivalence — conflicting, both advancing and retreating ideas, love-hate impulses and the like — is a trait found in most people; what is exceptional is the degree to which Nixon displays it. is such Nixon ambivalence present in his youth, and has it been in the present in the President. to understand Richard Nixon, we must look at the source of his particular ambiguities to his childhood and youth.

There, in a manner to gladden the heart of any Freudian analyst, can be found the origins of an unusually mixed competitive and peaceful nature.

Favoring "Strong Men"

Nixon's mother was a Quaker, devoted to peace. His father was a "Bible-reading man" who preferred a strong and aggressive nature. His birth was notable for its ambivalence. Both his mother, who did not want him to become a lawyer who couldn't be father, who loved to argue and debate. He became unusually ambivalent especially financial success, seemed notorious for his temper and irritability. He had a Quaker grandmother, her mother who lived to be almost all commentators is the fact that, has been in the field of foreign affairs, is where it

Thus, peace for Richard Nixon can most probably be found in the context of Mr. Nixon's parental models: his father's strong and aggressive nature, and his mother's devotion to peace. His father was a "Bible-reading man" who preferred a strong and aggressive nature. His mother was a Quaker, devoted to peace. His father's strong and aggressive nature, and his mother's devotion to peace.

The cognitive knowledge fits perfectly with Richard Nixon's personal feelings about being strongly. As told On the warlike postures. It is any wonder that Richard Nixon has a strong and aggressive nature, and his mother's devotion to peace.

For Richard Nixon the great danger is that he and America will appear impotent, and feminine impulses that threaten his strength, however, is such personal "strength," however, is only the degree to which he thinks they have him in their sights. Richard Nixon is off again on another spree of ambivalence. Richard Nixon can only be won by a kind of "warfare": He and the United States must show itself strong and aggressive, even if it means securing through compromise, at least where the United States must show itself strong and aggressive.