

A man in public life expects to be criticized, harassed and badgered by the opposition party, whether it be on domestic or foreign issues or whether it be in the form of personal attack for his alleged sins of omission and commission. Such things are quite naturally appraised as the normal posture of the political opposition. They are calculated to stir the personal and party interest of the one who is so attacked and serves to sharpen his weapons in responding to such attack.

But when such attacks spring from a sharp, divisive spirit in a person's own party and become rather personal and sometimes ugly in nature, it becomes a significantly different thing.

One may call those in public service politicians or statesmen, but they are all human beings. They have feelings. They are sensitive and those feelings quickly respond to personal attack.

In this hour of our history the situation takes on an intensive character. We are in a war. It has been a bloody and expensive adventure. One son-in-law of the President is either enroute or already in Vietnam. Another son-in-law is in uniform and will doubtless get orders for Vietnam in due course.

When a President is assailed, after doing what he deems best for the country and in the national interest only to be charged in some quarters for being responsible for the bloodletting and for planning even greater casualties and destruction, what does it do to the spirit?

When his ministers are called before committees of the Congress and pilloried for alleged mistakes in judgment and mainly by members of his own party, what must he think about the future and his continuing efforts to get the party back on track in the interest of victory and peace.

What must he think in quiet hours of reflection that his sincere efforts to meet the fiscal crisis which confronts the nation are stymied /not by the opposition so much as by those with whom he is associated in the same political organization?

And what must he say when those who become opponents for the presidential nomination in his own party rather carelessly reflect on his motives and efforts in leading the nation to what he deems to be sound ground?

More than a score of times in private, intimate conversation with the President in the last ^{six} months he would say to me that he was /not a candidate for anything and then emphasize it with an expressive forefinger. Perhaps he meant it even then but when he said it with some pathos in his voice on Sunday night it was quite evident that he did mean it.