

Nixon

THE TRIUMPH OF A POLITICIAN 1962-1972



STEPHEN E. AMBROSE

NIXON

VOLUME TWO

*The Triumph
of a Politician
1962-1972*

STEPHEN E. AMBROSE

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TO ALICE MAYHEW

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FOREWORD

THIS is the story that begins with Richard Nixon's drive to the Presidency, which he launched at his self-proclaimed "last press conference" on November 7, 1962. It carries through his campaign and victory in 1968, and covers his actions as President in his first term. It ends on November 7, 1972, the day of his re-election.

The story is based, overwhelmingly, on Richard Nixon's own words, written and spoken, public and private. His published memoirs provide the starting point. They are voluminous, detailed, sometimes almost embarrassingly revealing (certainly more so than any other President's memoirs), and usually reliable on statements of fact. His speeches, averaging almost one per day for the ten years covered in this volume, are available in newspapers and in four volumes of the *Public Papers of the President*. Nixon's private writings consist of tens of thousands of memorandums, hand-scribbled notes and comments, drafts of speeches, and the like. Much of this material remains under seal, as Nixon continues to do legal battle with the National Archives (a situation described on page 558), but a great deal is available to scholars. These private papers give a unique insight into Nixon's instinctive reactions and patterns of thought, his prejudices and convictions, as well as his orders and directives.

Then there are the tape-recorded conversations from the Nixon White House. They present all kinds of problems for scholars (see page 424), and are terribly limited, as only conversations about the Watergate cover-up are available out of the thousands of hours that were taped. Still, the tapes that have been made public are a marvelously rich source. It is less what is said, although that is obviously important, and more the nuances, the tone of voice, the