

Presidential Government: The Crucible of Leadership



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PREFACE TO THE
SENTRY EDITION
W xNow almost everything about Presidents' I suggest in these pages but far too little about tile Presidency. That paradox has not changed markedly during the eight years since this book was written -- four years of Lyndon Johnson and almost four of Richard Nixon. We have had a super-~ abundance of information about the man in tile oval office his wife daughters sons-in-law his daily routine moods entertainment travels. But we know all too little about the vast gray executive establishment that expands proliferates and partially devours the decision-making apparatus of the rest of the

government's behind the pleasantly deceptive "low profile" of the White House. Perhaps it was not surprising that the executive office should become bigger and more institutionalized during Johnson's full term in the White House. Liberal Democratic Presidents are expected to be "strong" chief executives; Johnson had a huge agenda of domestic and foreign policy goals; and in any event the momentum of the Roosevelt-Truman and Kennedy Administrations could be expected to put pressure on and dilate the executive bureaucracy. The test would come when a Republican entered the White House with the aim not only of curbing big government in general but of curtailing the "unbridled executive power" that good Republicans are taught from the cradle to abhor. President Nixon faced and- from a conservative Repub-

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