

Parts of a 96-page Tirade entitled
TYRANNUS NIX?

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Nixon Nixon bushleague President this is a populist
hymn to you and yours And I begin with your face
and come back to your face For 'our history is noble
and tragic like the mask of a tyrant' And the mask
an actor wears is apt to become his face

Nixon Nixon I saw your childhood home on TV I saw your
childhood face It was the same face the face of adult Ameri-
ca the space-race face the race face the face that sunk a
thousand sampans the face we all love in the Genital ads
the face of the nation facing the nation on color TV
the electronic burner that replaced the log fire the electric
log the gas log in color with antenna up the chimney
We sit entranced by the burning images on the grid in the
bright grate the flickering faces in the crucible....

Nixon o Nixon I dreamt of myself curled up
upon a big bed in the same position as my dog
Head tucked under tail sleeping and hiding from you
I don't know why exactly I'm telling you all this
except perhaps the curled-up image of self + dog
is the image of paranoid America itself The Vietnam
albatross still hanging heavy round your neck oh
Uncle Ahab still voyaging continually abroad in search
of monsters to destroy Great White Whales turn-
ing Red in the international waters of paranoia where
our free yellow submarine can't reach you and
you may lose your life like Ahab in strange China
seas if you don't ever ever see 'We're all one and
life flows on within you and without you'

Nixon ah Nixon I got the talking blues I think I'll sing
the Green Flag Rag rather than the Blood Spangled Banner in the
dawn's early blight Do housewives dream of you Are you sexy
How's your rig Who can tell and it's irrelevant anyway except
except for what you might do by way of sublimation Our
fate depends upon which one of your fingers itches
And thy hand is fire
Nixon Nixon enigma Nix unreal Nix your nowhere eyes
tell the true story of America... I think you've still got that
infectious Pink Eye you caught on the Unamerican Committee
what with your yahoo cohorts now conducting the nazi-
fication of California and other campuses I heard you
plainly tell them to get a little tougher on campus and
the next day they murdered one of us to show how tough

Thank you Tyrannus Nix Let him be laid at your door
You waved your soft white hand and the trigger moved un-
known to you yet it moved down the toilet chain of com-
mand The Blue Meanies are your real army oh my
Commander-in-chief

Nixon! Nixon! the Revolution is coming The TV is burn-
ing Its one-eyed imbecile head is winking with terror
They're using the same footage for the War as for the Soap
Opera with the same sponsor The Third World is still coming at
us over the hill You don't need spy planes + ships to see it
You need a Third Eye You've got one and don't know it
in the detached top of the pyramid on the reverse side of
the American dollar on the reverse side of the Great Seal
& the United States It occurs to me the distance between

the detached eye and the broad base of the Establishment
is the Generation Gap itself You don't have a clue how
to use that Eye and maybe even think you're supposed
to watch us with it like Big Brother through our TVs
down here in the dollar's green desert It occurs to
me it also sees a minotaur at the heart of that laby-
rinth which is the Pentagon while outside its eyeless
walls citizens without hats wind their white string
And the air is shaken with light....

Lawrence Ferlinghetti
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