

GOOD LUCK, MR. NIXON
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The year is drawing to an end and perhaps it is high time. Few years in recent history have been as troubled, and we can recall none in which there has been more turmoil, aggravation and controversy. The presidential campaigns and the elections, conducted over a background of assassinations, riots, demonstrations and breakdowns in the structure and orderliness of society, are finally over, and a genuine sigh of relief comes from all quarters.

Richard Nixon is the new President-elect, and a change in the Administration lies ahead. While some of the unhappy political columnists and cartoonist's harp with ridicule on his narrow victory and his meager "mandate," he should at least find some consolation in the fact that his popular vote margin of some 300,000 exceeded the 115,000 difference by which he lost to Kennedy in 1960. In addition, the complication of a three-man race and the large protest vote for Wallace narrowed his totals in both the popular and electoral votes by considerable amounts. According to pollster Louis Harris, whose bias has always been liberal and Democratic, Nixon "would have won a two-way election going away" with a solid 57-percent majority.

Among doctors, several pre-election polls showed a vote of 60 to 70 percent for Nixon. Even among academic and salaried physicians, who voted strongly Democratic in the 1964 election, the preference for Nixon over Humphrey was 45 percent to 35 percent. When the medical vote was broken down by specialty grouping, the only segment to prefer Humphrey was—guess who?—the psychiatrists. The interpretation of this aberration is best left up to the psychiatrists themselves.

At any rate, with Mr. Nixon in office, the medical profession should at least be able to look forward to a breathing spell. It is unlikely that any new and drastic programs to further government control of medical services will be pushed. There may even be a small hope that some of the programs already in effect will be restudied, properly evaluated and restructured.

What lies ahead, not only for medicine but for our American society as a whole, remains uncertain. But we can be grateful that this unsettling year is nearly over, and we can be hopeful that a change in the philosophy of government may lead us into a saner, more stable era. Good luck, Mr. Nixon.