Dr. Zaius is a villain as a mountain is a villain—if it stands between a sailor and the sea.

For the simian society on *The Planet of the Apes*, Zaius maintains the status quo—even in the face of new truths that should change things. For him, stability takes precedence over justice; and—although he is a scientist—history is more sacred than science.

Zaius is the prototypical Watergate conspirator, the man who says: If we hide it, if we close our eyes, it will cease to exist.