

Hunt Says Nixon Treated Friends, Country Poorly

MIAMI, Dec. 11 (UPI)—Watergate burglar E. Howard Hunt says Richard Nixon, in the long months following the Watergate break-in, "was far less concerned about the fate of his country than in maintaining himself in the presidency."

Hunt's letter to the editor of the Miami Herald, published in today's editions, was inspired by a news account of French reaction to the former President's recent television appearance in France and his speech before the Oxford University Union in Britain.

"Let us credit Nixon with all that may be his presidential due, but let us not forget that he treated his friends—and the nation—dishonorably and so remains forever dishonored himself," Hunt wrote.

During the European trip, Hunt said, Nixon "uncharacteristically, and to my knowledge for the first time . . . took the responsibility for Watergate. Characteristically, however, Nixon took none of the blame, leaving that to his closest associates, two of whom remain in prison [former attorney general John Mitchell and former Central Intelligence Agency agent G. Gordon Liddy].