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Watergate and Women

The AP story May 15, headlined "Women's Programs Hurt by Watergate" is an insult to any sensible woman's intelligence. What programs has Nixon ever promoted during his five disastrous years in the White House? You don't mean to imply that his appointment of a handful of loyal Republican women to high-salaried but useless positions can wipe out the discrimination against women that has existed for the entire history of this country?

Does Mr. Nixon's appointment of Ms. Armstrong wipe out the fact that 85 per cent of the welfare recipients are women and dependent children (and that 33 per cent of those women are trained and willing to work but cannot find day care centers for their children, due to Mr. Nixon's anti-child-care "program")? Does it wipe out the millions of unemployed, or underemployed and underpaid women who are heads of households and cannot afford the luxury of doing volunteer work?

To blame Watergate for the cruel and inhuman treatment by this government and this administration of over half of this nation's citizenry is a travesty. It wasn't Watergate that changed the all-female Talent Bank, established before Nixon got to the White House, into a male and female job hunt bank. It wasn't Watergate that kept women and minorities in the lowest GS level jobs in government up to and including the present time. It wasn't Watergate that created the Women's Participation of the Bicentennial Administration two years ago (outraged women's groups demanded this appointment) and then refused to fund it, staff it or even acknowledge its presence.

Much as I love The Washington Post, I must take issue with the entire article. The incumbent has been consistently opposed to women and minorities since the early 50's. He has no use for career women (or women who wear pant suits!) and he has done nothing to encourage the development of American women economically, educationally, socially or psychologically. Watergate (deleted expletive), that (inaudible) man in the White House has been (inaudible) women since the day he was born. Saying that Watergate terminated his "programs" is a first class (deleted and naughty) lie.

ROBIN DORR.

Annandale.