

'Image' and Reality

"The judicial process is moving ahead as it should, and I shall aid it in all appropriate ways. . . . I condemn any attempts to cover up in this case, no matter who is involved."

President Nixon, public statement, April 17, 1973

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From the White House Transcripts, April 27, 1973:

Mr. Nixon: We've got to head them off at the pass. Because it's so damned—so damn dangerous to the Presidency, in a sense. . . .

Mr. Petersen: Mr. President I tell you, . . . We have to draw the line. We have no mandate to investigate the President. We investigate Watergate, and I don't know where that line draws, but we have to draw that all the time.

Mr. Nixon: Good. Because if Dean is implicating the Presidency—we are going to damned well find out about it. . . .

Mr. Petersen: My understanding of our responsibilities is that if it came to that I would have to come to you and say, "We can't do that." The only people who have jurisdiction to do that is the House of Representatives, as far as I'm concerned.

Mr. Nixon: That's right. . . . Now understand that this is not a grand jury thing.

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"I was determined that we should get to the bottom of the matter, and that the truth should be fully brought out—no matter who was involved."

President Nixon, public statement, April 30, 1973