COMMENTARY Each week thousands of letters cascade into the Personality Parade department of this publication.

Prior to Watergate, 70 percent of our letter-writers signed their names.

Since the Watergate scandal, 70 percent of our letter-writers request that only their initials be published.

Here is a sampling: "Do not print my full name. I don't want the FBI investigating my family... Initials only, please. Wouldn't care to make the Enemies List... Under no circumstances are you to

use my name. I've had enough trouble with the Internal Revenue Service ...Just print, if you use my letter, the name Mary B. I'm afraid of being hassled."

It will be years before the FBI, the CIA, the Justice Department, the Presidency, and various other branches involved in the shabby Watergate mess regain the confidence and respect of the American citizenry.

The major crime, the heinous sin, of Watergate is that it instilled in the hearts and minds of Americans a fear of their own government.