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The Rights of Others

Sensible citizens should no longer be shocked by disgraceful misconduct on the part of our national leaders, but your description of the FBI's most recent foray into electronic surveillance deserves comment. The FBI cannot be allowed to excuse itself with a bland acknowledgement that it "did not follow regular policy on this particular

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(King) surveillance." Mr. Hoover is deserving of public rebuke at the very least, although removal from office is a more suitable response to this illegal and immoral intrusion on the right to private communication.

The actions of a Federal agency cannot be regulated if its leaders are not held strictly accountable for the agency's conduct. Mr. Nixon attacked student radicals for their "moral arrogance" in his recent speech, on the basis of their lack of "respect for the rights of others." The FBI deserves to be judged by the same standards we apply to the SDS.

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