

A Political Crisis

No criminal investigation is required to demonstrate that Mr. Nixon has presided over the most damaging and far-reaching abuse of the presidency in the history of our country. It does not matter whether or not he was personally involved in the crimes committed in his name; they were committed by officials whom he placed in office, and for whose actions the Constitution makes him responsible.

In any other Western democracy, the government would have fallen by now; the legislature would have seen to that.

Until the President resigns, we will not have a government capable of commanding enough public confidence to govern effectively. If he refuses to see this, he is putting pride before country.

I believe that leading Republicans have a special obligation to speak out on this subject. No Democrat can do so without appearing to seek partisan advantage. We are, after all, in a political crisis, and I believe that our elected political officials cannot remain silent in the hope that the courts will restore integrity to our government.

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