

Purdie 7/2/75

Q. In view of the fact that he pardoned Richard Nixon, the ringleader in the Watergate coverup, won't President Ford now have to pardon Nixon's found-guilty subordinates: Mitchell, Haldeman, Ehrlichman, and Mardian?—Don Campbell, Tucson, Ariz.

A. Not necessarily. In pardoning Nixon, President Ford said, "I deeply believe in equal justice for all Americans, whatever station or former station. The law, whether human or divine, is no respecter of persons, but the law is a respecter of reality." Ford, however, has never found consistency in politics to be a moral obligation.