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## Letters to the Ed

### Nixon's Plan to Visit China

To the Editor:

President Nixon's announcement of his planned visit to China is quite a political coup. But this magnanimously volunteered journey in an aura of peace and friendship doesn't fit the President's historical image. Perhaps the truth is more nearly that Mr. Nixon is being dragged kicking to Peking.

If we grant that Red China now has the votes without us to take Taiwan's seat at the Security Council and the United Nations, and that it has gained sufficient economic and military power to be a force that must be reckoned with in international planning, then the President's efforts to play the old balance-of-power game is more understandable.

Chou En-lai's willingness to receive the representative of the old-line conservatives must mean that he expects to gain more than by waiting out the 1972 elections.

Had the U.S. bent a little in years past, there might now be a two-China world policy and even India in China's place at the Security Council. The march of history has made this impossible and reduced our bargaining position. Nor has our exhaustion by the stupidity of our war in Vietnam helped.

Is the President changing our foreign policy through necessity or free will? Why is he going to Peking rather than Mao or Chou coming to Washington? Are we ever to resume a leadership role of making history rather than being pushed by history?

The whole story of Richard Nixon's duplexity from his House campaign against Helen Douglas to the Cambodian and Laos invasions should

teach us liberals to be wary. When the President seems to espouse a liberal position, look to the pressures upon him and await his actual acts and the results before singing hallelujah. There is still much room for a slip twixt the cup and the lip.

It would be more comforting if a true liberal President were making the trip. A serious setback will result if it aborts because Mr. Nixon fails to be trusted, or fails to negotiate in good faith or if he allows himself to be entrapped. His solitary manner and lack of competent advisers are cause for fear.

JOHN L. JOSEPH

New Jersey State Chairman  
Americans for Democratic Action  
Hasbrouck Heights, N. J., July 27, 1971

To the Editor:

It is of interest to comment on two aspects of President Nixon's proposed trip to China:

In what must be considered his most brilliant (and at the same time his most cynical) move of the 1972 campaign, the President has in one maneuver set the scene for face-to-face talks with the former "enemy." Perhaps this will lead to peace—we can only hope so—but it certainly sets the scene for the abandonment of the famous "Southern strategy."

Secondly, no Democratic President could have had so easy a time in the obvious easing of relations with "the People's Republic of China." In fact one might suggest that Mr. Nixon, out of office, would have been leading the pack crying, "This is treason!"

J. M. GALLIGAN

RUTH GALLIGAN

Shoreham, L. I., July 21, 1971