

APR 17 1973

LETTER

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A Crime, or Not

Editor — It is unbelievable and frightening the extent to which columnist, news reporters and courts will go to make a vendetta out of the Watergate affair. One feels caught in a McCarthy nightmare.

No one was hurt. No real crime was committed except that of absolute stupidity. And yet this has been blown up all out of proportion with the anti-Nixonites rubbing their hands in malicious glee.

JEAN LARKIN.

Napa.

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Editor — In spite of the degrading influence of the Nixon-type politics on the nation, not everyone is willing to accept breaking and entering, perjury and dishonest sabotage of one's political opponents as a cute "caper" as does Geo. C. McNutt (Letters, April 4).

In the same issue Joseph Alsop takes up the cudgels for Mr. Nixon, pleading that further investigation of the Watergate case is likely to cripple the President politically at a time when he should be strong to perform his duties of world leadership.

It is not the investigation of the Watergate scandal that has crippled Mr. Nixon, but the affair itself and the inescapable conclusion that if he has nothing to hide, he would not need to claim executive privilege to try to conceal the facts and subvert the investigation.

GRACE SMITH.

Redding.