

Editor — I have read carefully President Nixon's Watergate statement. He uses the words "national security" 28 times. I didn't count the extra number of times that the word "security" was used, either with "internal" or some other qualifier.

I am curious to know what Mr. Nixon . . . meant by "national security" that he should hang the whole Watergate affair about its neck, in order that he may emerge as being the noble (if somewhat stupid) defender of our endangered nation.

Considering that we are protected by two oceans, and a military budget that ensures us a 10-to-1 overkill against any other nation, what is Mr. Nixon worried about? Granted that some diplomatic "sensitive" communications should remain unpublicized until their completion, I still don't know what we're scared of.

M. A. W. MILLS.

Sacramento.