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To the Editor:

It boggles the mind to try to understand President Nixon's contention that he had to consider blackmail payments to E. Howard Hunt in order to prevent him from revealing information pertaining to "national security." It would seem that the President of the United States would have it within his power to summon the proper authorities to detain and sequester a common blackmailer.

FLORENCE K. DIAMOND Jamaica, N. Y., April 30, 1974