

Chicago Tribune Calls on Nixon To Quit for Well-Being of Nation

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CHICAGO, May 8 (UPI) — The Chicago Tribune, long regarded as one of the nation's staunchest Republican newspapers, called today for President Nixon to leave office for the sake of "the Presidency, the country and the free world."

Richard Nixon who emerges in a three-part editorial appearing in tomorrow morning's editions, The Tribune said, "It is saddening and hard to believe that for the first time in our history, it is better that the president leave office than to fight to keep it. But things have reached such a state that Mr. Nixon's departure, one way or another, is the best course."

The Tribune said that Mr. Nixon should leave the White House either by resignation or through the process of impeachment, but that he should leave in any case.

'We Are Appalled'

Referring to its past support of the President, The Tribune said, "We saw the public man in his first Administration and we were impressed. Now in about 300,000 words we have seen the private man and we are appalled." The editorial continued:

"What manner of man is the Richard Nixon who emerges from the transcripts of the White House tapes?"

"We see a man who, in the words of his old friend and defener, Senator Hugh Scott, took a principal role in a 'shabby, immoral and disgusting performance.'

"The key word here is immoral. It is a lack of concern

for morality, a lack of concern for high principles. A lack of commitment to the high ideals of public office that make the [Watergate] transcripts a sickening exposure of the man and his advisers.

"He is preoccupied with appearance rather than substance. His aim is to find a way to sell the idea that disruptable schemes are actually good or are defensible for some trumped-up cause.

'Devious' and 'Vacillating'

"He is humorless to the point of being inhumane. He is devious. He is vacillating. He is willing to be led. He displays dismayng gaps in knowledge. He is suspicious of his staff. His loyalty is minimal. His greatest concern is to create a record that will save him and his administration."

The Tribune said that Mr. Nixon had made strategic errors, both when he released the transcripts and when he made public his income tax records. The aditorial added:

"Both stripped the man to his essential character, and that character could not stand that kind of scrutiny. Both miscalculations demonstrated an essential Nixon defect — an insensitivity to the standards of ethics and morality that Americans expect of their leaders.

"The President is right in urging a quick end to the Watergate affair. His country needs a swift and merciful termination of this agony.

"Two roads are open. One is resignation. The other is impeachment. Both are legitimate and would satisfy the need to observe due process."