

Getting It Right, Or Something

By Tom Wicker

Here are some necessary pre-vacation confessions:

¶On July 2, I wrote that Richard Nixon could hardly wish to be the "first President to be censured" by Congress. Prof. William Greenleaf of the University of New Hampshire has gently but firmly pointed out that President Andrew Jackson was censured by the Senate, the House refusing to concur, during the famous controversy over the Bank of the United States in 1834. The Jackson censure was officially expunged from Senate records in January, 1837, but Professor Greenleaf is surely right that such an "official" recantation still leaves Andrew Jackson the "first President to be censured," no matter what happens to "P."

¶On June 30, I attempted a tentative defense of so-called "affirmative action" programs to place more women and blacks on university faculties. My article ostensibly was a response to a new book, "Antibias Revisited: Universities," by Richard P. Light of Princeton University. P. Light has written with generosity to say that what I represented his "tail, together with the subject matter."