

ditor

NYTimes

JUL 21 1974

Why Ford Should Resign

To the Editor:

Regrettably, it has become obvious that Gerald Ford has decided to pin his honor and his credibility to the innocence of Richard Nixon. If there is indeed a second cover-up in progress, Ford appears to be an active and willing participant. Should Mr. Nixon



eventually be impeached and removed, he will leave a successor who will be hopelessly compromised. Ford will be in no position to call for the trust and undivided loyalty of the nation under those circumstances; he would, in fact, be unfit to assume the Presidency.

Of course, it would be absurd to call on Ford to resign if and when President Nixon were found guilty. This would place those Republicans who voted to impeach and convict in the position of giving to the Democrats an office which their party had won, more or less fairly, in a national election. Lest we forget, Ford's appointment was ratified so harmoniously by overwhelming bipartisan majorities so that precisely this sort of consideration would not distort the impeachment process.

The question is whether the more principled citizens of this country are going quietly to deplore this man—and suddenly find themselves with a President Ford. It seems to me that, distasteful as I find the prospect, we have a duty to demand Ford's resignation now, before the situation becomes even worse. Perhaps at long last the Republican party will see fit to nominate a Vice President who will place the national interest ahead of narrow partisan loyalty, and who will behave with dignity suitable to the office and the times.

HENRY Z. HORBACZEWSKI
New York, July 16, 1974