

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SFChronicle

The Sinking of the President

AUG 13 1974

Editor — The President's resignation statement was a smooth combination of an admirable exercise in the respected and time-honored legal practice of settling out of court and an unprecedented plea bargaining offer involving the entire American public.

As an astute and articulate lawyer, the President presented his case well. I doubt, however, that the American conscience is prepared to accept this kind of out of court settlement or plea bargaining, notwithstanding the tears Mrs. Nixon, Tricia and Julie have shed. I submit that the President's resignation should not be swept under a rug of compassion, but should be discussed widely and openly.

JOHN J. BOYLE

San Francisco.

Editor — Mr. Nixon's exit reveals how insatiable ambition can command an awesome price. He will be shunned. But the greatest cost is borne by the nation. The damage may never be fully repaired.

ROLAND BALLEEN

Palo Alto.

Editor . . . I hope that respect of the law, Congress, the courts and the administration will have the courage to complete the process and that the main man responsible for the crisis, who did not acknowledge direct responsibility for usurpation of power and obstruction of justice, goes to trial. No immunity should be considered, particularly when secondary figures have paid and are paying a high price for misdeeds committed under his authority and for him . . .

ALEXANDRE A. BERLINE

San Francisco.

Editor — In your blind sympathy for a man who deserves no more sympathy than he has shown, you fail to see the point of the Nixon affair. It is not Mr. Nixon. It is not that by resigning he can preserve a pension he little

deserves and avoid a well deserved trial. The point is that America has shown herself and the rest of the world what democracy is all about. It matters little that Mr. Nixon will with his last official act — resignation — cheat us. He has been cheating us throughout his career.

. . . What is important is that we have served notice to would-be tyrants, whether external or internal, that we will allow only so many of our liberties to be stolen from us.

RICHARD TONEY

San Francisco.

Editor — . . . Those who say he has suffered enough and want no thorough inquiry into the facts are, in effect, proclaiming their fear of revelation of his guilt. The ex-President should be cleared or brought to trial. National interest demands removal of the cloud.

VIRGIL BOZARTH

Martinez.

Editor — . . . The President has confessed to his wrongdoings and resigned for the benefit of America. Why don't we use this to advantage and get on with the problems that face us as he suggested himself? I think some people are going to be sorry when they don't have Watergate to kick around anymore as evidenced in their reaction to his speech.

GLORIA NYSTROM

Menlo Park.

Editor — . . . America has lost its most experienced, hardest worker and most capable President . . .

E. B. STANDISH

Los Altos.

Editor — It's the same old story: ambitious man, rising to the top, falling by corruption. Adam, Faust, Dorian Gray, and Richard Nixon. We are highly original to have produced the century's greatest tragic hero in the person of the President of the United States.

Ambition is a flaw when it mo-

tivates man to what cannot be had by rights — rights being the outcome of individuality's successful striving within the framework of consensus. Heedless individuality is usually destructive in matters pertinent to the whole. Opinion dictates its fall . . .

JOHN MONEY

San Francisco.

Editor — The greatest President of the 20th Century has been destroyed by those who have never forgiven him for exposing Alger Hiss and defeating the personification of appeasement, George McGovern.

THOMAS M. EDWARDS

San Francisco.

Editor — . . . We've had our fill of condemnation so let's try a little christianity and practice compassion realizing that none of us is eligible to cast the first stone . . .

H. G. WHITE

San Francisco.

Editor — . . . We have heard that our judiciary process works, but unless Nixon is taken to court it will be embarrassingly apparent that it works differently for those of influence than it does for those with none.

JOHN R. STILES

San Francisco.

Editor—They've done away with President Nixon as surely as they did away with President Kennedy. Not because Richard Nixon broke the law but because his honesty in protecting our country's security put him outside of the protection of the law . . .

GRACE O'MALLEY

San Francisco.

Editor — If Richard Nixon were to compile a new enemies list, the name at the head of the list should be his own.

EDWARD E. CASSADY

Berkeley.