

Editor — David Freeman's letter
(History Will Judge, August 14)

Richard Nixon's resignation
d on whether he should be tried
r his crimes in a court of law is
e most thoughtful and interest-
g one I've read. He makes the
int that "the prospect of forc-
 forfeiture of the presidency" is
fficient deterrent to future
atergates. He suggests that Nix-
's humiliation is enough punish-
nt for the man.

I wonder. There has been noth-
g in Richard Nixon's long, dis-
norable career to suggest that
e man has the capacity for hu-
lity or understanding of the na-
e of his humiliation. He showed
ne of either in his resignation
euch, which, as we all expected,
s more a recitation of his ac-
mplishments. It was a stunning
euch: he showed no perception
what he has done; it was more
e some sort of bizarre victory
euch. I'm convinced Richard
xon truly believes that he will go

down in history as a very good
President.

In point of fact he was the un-
scrupulous mastermind of a crimi-
nal conspiracy that damned near
left the country in shambles. As
the New Yorker Magazine put it a
while back: he very nearly suc-
ceeded in driving us all out of our
minds. He was a crook. He had no
sense of humor, he had no grace,
no style, and worst of all, the man
had no compassion.

He mercilessly dragged us
through the mire. It has been a
horrible trauma for all of us and
it's an enormous relief to have him
out of the way, but I still think the
man should be punished for what
he has done to us, and nobody has
done worse to us than Richard
Milhous Nixon. He wounded us
deeply and almost made us lose
faith.

JACK LIND

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