

LET ME SAY THIS ABOUT THAT

Nathan Hale said his only regret was that he had but one life to lose for his country. Facing indictments and sentencing rather than the hangman, the Watergate defendants also fashioned pronouncements. Here are some of the more—and less—memorable ones.

"I am absolutely positive in my heart, down to my toes, that I will never get into trouble again." —Herbert L. Porter

"I was ambitious, but I was not without morals or ethics or ideals. There was in me that same blend of ambition and altruism that I saw in my peers. Somewhere between my ambition and my ideals I lost my ethical compass. I found myself on a path that had not been intended for me by my parents or by my principles or by my own ethical instincts. It has led me to this courtroom."

—Jeb Stuart Magruder

"Like a dumbbell I played along with them."

—George A. Hearing

"My conscience is clear. Regardless of how rough the road ahead may be, I know that in the end my innocence will be established because I put complete faith in God and I believe deeply in my country."

—Charles W. Colson

"On the day I was indicted, I went out on my front lawn and said I was innocent. I intend to fight this thing all the way through."

—Dwight L. Chapin

"I now feel that the sincerity of my motivation cannot justify what was done, and that I cannot in conscience assert national security as a defense."

—Egil Krogh

"In making my guilty plea to the misdemeanor which I have described, I do so out of respect for the criminal justice system of the United States and the indisputable fact that the system must have equal application to all." —Richard G. Kleindienst

"My participation in Watergate was in error and wrong. I offer no excuse."

—James W. McCord

"I am the only one in this room who really knows whether I am guilty or not guilty of the charges against me. Your Honor, I am innocent of each and every one of the charges in this case."

—John D. Ehrlichman

"I am prepared to account for my actions, which I deeply regret."

—John Dean

"Your honor, I'd like to let you know how deeply embarrassed I am and how much I regret standing here before you this afternoon."

—Herbert W. Kalmbach

"I am certainly not looking forward to [going to jail]. But now I can start getting my life back together again. The last year has been an absolute nightmare for me."

—Donald H. Segretti

"Today I stand before the bar of justice alone, nearly friendless, ridiculed, disgraced, destroyed as a man. These have been a few of the many tragic consequences of my participation in the Watergate affair, and they have been visited upon me in overwhelming measure. What I did was wrong."

—E. Howard Hunt

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