

To the Editor:

Mr. Safire is mistaken in interpreting the public interest in Mr. Nixon's reported instability during his last days in office as the need by many to cover up their guilt feelings. [Column March 29.]

Mr. Nixon was not "struck down"; his schemes and abuses were diligently documented by Congressional committees. Still, many Americans might have been willing to forgive him had he, instead of publicly lying to them, admitted his mistakes and then resigned from office, living out his years quietly as a private citizen.

Instead, the former "sovereign," to use his term, lives in splendor at his seaside estate, acts as if he were still a statesman during his travels to China and has apparently not paid up the back taxes he owes to the Government.

Perhaps Mr. Nixon fell to his knee and humbled himself before God, as reported by Mr. Safire, but he did not ask forgiveness from the American people, whom he was elected to serve.

RENNY S. FREUNDLICH  
Upper Montclair, N. J., March 30, 1976

To the Editor:

Thank the Lord for William Safire. His column on the latest rounds of exploitations by the media to keep open the wound of Watergate was exactly what had to be and should be said. If more of our leaders spent more time on their knees, there is no doubt in my mind our world would have much less to weep about.

MARGARET K. FOSTER  
Greenwich, Conn., March 30, 1976

To the Editor:

William Safire's outrage at the revelations in the new Woodward and Bernstein book, "The Final Days," is a textbook example of classic hypocrisy from one of its greatest virtuosos.

When the dirt is thrown out of the pit onto the Kennedy pile, Mr. Safire gleefully welcomes the "revelations" as part of the "true picture." But when from the same pit the dirt is heaped onto the Nixon pile, he cries "foul." Well, "foul" is the right word.

Mr. Safire's uniquely selective memory has apparently enabled him to forget that it was his gang of chickens who fouled the roost so much that the whole flock had to be swept out—most of them into jail.

WALTER W. REINHOLD  
Cranford, N. J., March 30, 1976