

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

WXPost *Elusive Santa*

We took our kids to see Santa at one of the plazas where they advertise that you can see him. There were lots of clerks and shoppers in all the stores but Santa Claus did not keep his appointed hours, nor even post a notice that he would not be there. An inquiry to the management produced the explanation that Santa couldn't come because of the snow. Now, I ask you, what kid will believe that?

JAMES MAHONEY.

Silver Spring.

Colson's Conversion

An individual's personal spiritual experience is a touchy and delicate subject to write about under any circumstances, particularly for a major news organ usually devoted to other subjects. I want to commend you on William Greider's tactful and informative report (Dec. 17, page 1) on Charles Colson's conversion.

It is easy to make light of such a change of heart or to write about it in such a way that it appears phoney or ridiculous; on the other hand, it is also a failing—particularly in Christian publications such as ours—to present it in a naive or propagandistic fashion. Greider has written about Colson in such a way that other evangelicals will recognize what he is talking about, while those who do not share Colson's belief or experience will not be misinformed about them.

HAROLD O. J. BROWN,
Associate Editor, Christianity Today.

Washington

I expect to have a much happier Christmas this year knowing that Charles Colson is praying for me and my many skeptical friends.

WILLIAM E. BUCKNAM.

Arlington.

Can anyone really believe that attending a "prayer breakfast" in a political setting such as the White House is in any way indicative of a man's spirituality? Should not Charles Colson's nouveau spirital endowment permit him to recognize the mockery of returning to the scene of the crime(s) for prayer and reparation?

It is obvious that Colson would ex-

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pect reporters to take notice of his White House visits, thus providing him with ample opportunity to publicly air his "conversion."

To this reader, the fact that he finds it necessary to pray in the company of politicians and their cronies, instead of in the solitude of his own heart, mind and bedroom indicates that he is just as determined to use Jesus Christ as he was his own grandmother.

T. FREEMAN.

GLORIA T. FREEMAN.

Washington

Comparing Nixon, Nader

Nicholas von Hoffman's column of Dec. 17 represents the kind of reporting President Nixon characterizes as vicious and distorted. And rightfully so. For example, in the first paragraph von Hoffman refers to Mr. Nixon as President Truthful. If that isn't a distortion, I don't know what is.

A bit further von Hoffman tries to be a bit more evenhanded, to wit: "Others remark that while Washington never told a lie, Nixon never told the truth." But this is hearsay evidence, and if von Hoffman had been on top of his subject, he would have realized that the President does tell the truth occasionally. Take the President's financial situation, for example. Von Hoffman and others are well aware of the million bucks President Nixon amassed while in office. So when the President stoutly maintains: "The buck stops here," they had better believe it.

MILDRED FEUERSTEIN.

Silver Spring.

I read with interest Nicholas von Hoffman's column of Dec. 17, with its comparison of President Nixon's life style to that of Ralph Nader.

A certain similarity might be found in a part of Cicero's "Tusculan Disputations," in which the Greek ruler Dionysius is contrasted with the mathematician Archimedes.

WILLIAM B. RAY JR.

Washington.

Detente's Results

Upon reviewing the results of President Nixon's friendship with Russia, I urge that we bury detente before it buries us.

ARTHUR E. BERGAN.

Philadelphia.