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Of Nixon and History

To the Editor:

Walter Wheeler's Oct. 2 letter must not go unanswered, for he is one of those who would warp facts and re-write history.

His most blatant distortion is to give Nixon credit for concluding the Vietnam war, which, of course, is not concluded. The fact is, Nixon had ample opportunity to "extricate" us from that war three to four years before he did so. He helped indirectly to get us involved in it; he helped directly to keep us involved in it.

In regard to détente with Russia and China: that was long, long overdue, and again precisely because of policies Nixon for years had advocated and pursued. It should be obvious there would be no need for détente had the tension not been allowed to be built up in the first place.

Mr. Wheeler states that the marches and demonstrations were a threat to the well-being of this country. I submit that it was the wars, both the cold war and the Vietnam war, that were the threat to the country. But for the marches and demonstrations we might still be involved, for they were a true expression of the will of our people.

GEORGE W. CONKLIN
New Haven, Oct. 2, 1974

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