

For the Record

From an interview with David and Julie Eisenhower on "Face the Nation" Jan. 18:

Q. Mr. Eisenhower, you at one time said that you thought that the cover-up or what has been called the cover-up was a tragic thing. Would you think that is a general assessment of the family...?

MRS. EISENHOWER: It was a tragedy, and I think that what is a tragedy too is that the whole Watergate has unravelled a whole chain of investigations revelations, with the FBI, the CIA. You know, the country, it seems to me, is going through—Watergate hasn't really ended, in other words, the atmosphere—that's not to say that I oppose knowing what the CIA does, and that certain restrictions be put on the CIA, and that the Senate be, and the House be aware of the CIA, but there have been a lot of tragic consequences too, and I just hope that we're moving into a time when the country starts looking forward more. In China there is purpose; they seem to have goals, they seem to be working for things, and I—

Q. But no freedom.

MRS. EISENHOWER: There is little freedom, yes, but, I still think it's a valid point that it's a nation with a destiny and a purpose, and we seem to be lacking that in this country right now.

MR. EISENHOWER: Another aspect of the—I mean, another word would be careless, and it's the carelessness of this sort of—the mindless aggrandizement of executive power which is on trial, and a theme running even now through the CIA investigation—I think the historical verdict will be as much carelessness, as tragedy, because in the carelessness which brought the Watergate issue to the fore, the entire system of—as I say, mindless growth of power concentrated in the White House, was placed on trial, and before the American public, and from that we're defining new bounds for presidents.