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Philip A. Lacovara, in letter to the editor, comments on Safire's column in NYT 5 Jun 75, describing it as an "attempt ... to suggest that former President Nixon's code of conduct was actually higher than his predecessors'."

- On Nixon pardon: "President Ford's decision to grant a full and unconditional pardon to his predecessor made it impossible for the people to have Mr. Nixon's guilt or innocence adjudicated in a criminal court in the way such serious charges would have been decided for a private citizen where the societal interests in a clear resolution of the charges are even less compelling than they are in the case of a former President. I resigned from the Special Prosecutor's office partly because, in my judgment, President Ford clouded the record and made easier the kind of revisionist history that Mr. Safire and others will seek to rewrite." Lacovara says that "One of the great failures of the Watergate investigations was their inability to set down for history a clear-cut judicial determination of Mr. Nixon's complicity in the Watergate cover-up conspiracy."

- On Nixon's culpability: "It is important to remember that Mr. Nixon was named an unindicted co-conspirator by the same grand jury that indicted his former aides.... Mr. Nixon was not indicted at that time solely because of the policy judgment that it was more appropriate for charges of criminal misconduct by an incumbent President to be resolved through the constitutional process of impeachment. Although Mr. Nixon short-circuited that constitutional process by resigning from office, the failure to charge him in an indictment prior to the time President Ford intervened to preempt any criminal charges was in no way related to any judgment that Mr. Nixon's culpability was less grave than that of his previously indicted and since convicted associates.

.... "The events that prevented the public from obtaining a formal adjudication of Mr. Nixon's abuses of power and violations of the law should not obscure this central fact: Mr. Nixon remains the only President who was formally charged with being a conspirator in a crass and brazen scheme to misuse the powers of government and to pervert the judicial process in violation of several federal felony statutes. History should at least be clear on this."

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- On Nixon's return to public life: "It is grimly ironic that at the time that a number of Watergate figures who acted on behalf of Richard Nixon's private and public ambitions are serving sentences or are at large on parole or on bond awaiting appellate review of their convictions, the former President is reasserting a claim to a place of leadership in public affairs. The double standard that was permitted by President Ford's pardon is illustrated by the periodic stories about courtesy calls being paid upon Mr. Nixon and by the leaders of our government and by foreign leaders as well, and about Mr. Nixon's plans to continue his involvement in the people's business."

WXP 16 Jun 75, Philip A. Lacovara

Nixon - For comments on the following, see entry, Philip A. Lacovara:

- Pardon
- Culpability
- Return to public life

Wiretaps, national security - Court papers filed by Halperin (no date) include a deposition given by Ernest H. Belter, a former FBI employee who from 1961 to 1973 personally installed nearly 90 per cent of all national security wiretaps in WK and supervised their monitoring. Story, apparently based on Belter's deposition, goes into great detail about how such taps were instituted and monitored, how no records were kept, and the great secrecy involved. WXP describes this secrecy as "far more stringent than any other FBI national security wiretaps in the last 20 years."

"Attorneys familiar with this and other litigation growing out of the Nixon-ordered wiretaps ~~and the~~ said the deposition by Belter is the most devastating testimony yet by a government official that the taps were not normal national security wiretaps."

WXP 16 Jun 1975, Timothy S. Robinson

Ernest H. Belter - See entry, Wiretaps, national security.

Halperin suit - " "

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Jaworski, a former president of the American Bar Association, will receive the ABA's highest award at its August meeting. Story notes that the announcement is made "on the eve of the third anniversary of the Watergate break-in."

NYTimes 17 Jun 75, Notes on People

Edward Morgan is barred from practicing law before the Supreme Court. He is the third among those involved in Watergate to be barred, the others being Liddy and Dean.

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