

Significance of the 'Watergate Affair'

To the Editor:

Free the Watergate Seven!

After the Mylai massacre the big fish swam away and the little fish got caught. There is every reason to suspect that something similar may be happening in the Watergate affair. Although a representative of the Justice Department, which has had a sort of overlapping directorate with the Committee for the Re-Election of the President since its inception, says that there is "no evidence that any others should be charged." It is inconceivable that the initiative for the burglary should have come from the seven already indicted or that the stolen information should have been intended for their sole use.

The \$114,000 found on the person of one of them has been traced in an unbroken chain back to the donors. Either the Republicans left all that money lying around with their backs turned, in which case they should hardly be given fiscal responsibility for the United States, or the plot originated in a higher echelon, possibly with *carte blanche*, a wink, and ample funds for contingencies.

The undisputed facts already disclosed about the operations raise grave suspicions concerning the involvement of Mr. Nixon and his close advisers. All such doubts should be resolved before Nov. 7. We cannot wait seven years, as in the Teapot Dome bribery case of fifty years ago.

Prosecution of those now under indictment is of relative unimportance. The country has to know the truth and know it in time, even if this might result in freeing someone from the consequences of his felonies.

I propose that all seven be given immunity from prosecution for anything except perjury and that their testimony be taken publicly and immediately under oath before an impartial and respected commission of inquiry under the questioning of a special prosecutor. Attorney General Kleindienst can be of little service. He has too much at stake in the delay or defeat of such an inquiry.

ROBERT F. JACKSON

Toledo, Ohio, Sept. 16, 1972

To the Editor:

There is something grotesquely silly about the way in which Messrs. McGovern, Kennedy, O'Brien, et al., are placing virtually all their campaign thrust against the Watergate "caper." At its worst Watergate was a childish attempt to spy on a political antagonist. Equating it with the Teapot Dome and Chappaquiddick scandals is making the McGovern campaign look pitifully weak at a moment when truly significant problems are crying for discussion and solution.

C. R. DEVINE

New York, Sept. 15, 1972