SFChronicle ETTER

Taut Ship Dept. 17 or 72

Editor — Right from the beginning it should have been evident American voters wouldn't buy the Watergate bugging/espionage case. Even a seventh-generation Democrat, steeped in the Tricky Dick legend, could scarcely believe a man of Nixon's taut ship capability would tolerate such an amateurish, bungling, inept Laurel and Hardy performance as that painted by O'Brien and the Washington Post. No, the affair is credible only when viewed as a badly botched plot by some mentally unsound, knee-jerk Nixon hater.

GEO. C. McNUTT.

Oakland.