

'A Lot of People Were Hurt'

Editor — Frankly I'm sick and tired of reading and hearing about Watergate. Why don't we just put the whole matter to rest and let him, without guilt, cast the first stone.

M. MARCE.

San Francisco.

Editor — It is unbelievable and frightening to me that there are many people in this country willing to totally dismiss the Watergate affair as a harmless prank. In a letter to the editor printed April 17 Jean Larkin states: "No one was hurt. No real crime was committed except that of absolute stupidity." Actually, many people were hurt. Several candidates for the Democratic nomination were harassed by acts of sabotage. This certainly hurt their campaigns. The American people were deprived of a fair and honest campaign without illegal maneuvering. This hurt a great many people. As for no crime being committed, is burglary not a crime? What about breaking and entering, illegal wire-tapping, and illegal use of funds by the Committee to Re-Elect the President? The fact that these men were working for the re-election of President Nixon does not exempt them from obeying the laws of this country.

Perhaps the complete story of Watergate will never come out. With the current arguments over executive privilege, and the unwillingness of several participants

to testify, the truth may be lost forever in a jumble of legal arguments. But I say hats off to the few courageous journalists in this country who had the guts to oppose the cover-up during the campaign. Watergate will take its place alongside the Teapot Dome scandal as a black page in the history of American politics. Let us hope that in the future the democratic process will be unimpeded by criminal actions such as these.

ROBERT J. BLACK, JR.

Davis.

Editor — . . . I am hard-pressed to imagine any President who remains so insulated from his immediate staff seeming to not know what principles guide their behavior. . . .

JAMES BARKER.

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Editor — . . . What is really unbelievable and frightening is that millions of people have bought Nixon's line that there is a conspiracy between the newspapers and the courts to deny him the unchecked power he seems to feel he deserves. . . . We have unscrupulous men in positions of enormous power. The Constitution is being ignored by the White House, and it is a question if our system of three co-equal branches of government can survive. . . .

NANCY L. BEY.

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