

Editor's Mail Box

Nixon's Inner Circle

To The Editor:

A President is known by the staff he keeps. He must attract the best, then bring out the best in them. No President can escape responsibility for his choices for cabinet or his personal staff.

Harry Truman was right when he said: "The buck stops here." The Nixon cabinet and staff are a mirror image of mediocrity. Gray, colorless men, they're drab cookie-cutter interchangeables . . .

I can name more members of the cabinet of Franklin Roosevelt that I can of Richard Nixon's current group What is the root of Nixon's fear of the media? Is it fear of his own mediocrity? The vision I have of the planning that went into Watergate includes a "Mission Impossible" tape recording that says: "If any of you are caught, the President will disavow"

A President with a sense of honor would not have waited 10 months to bear down. "Lay low, fellas," is not the way to achieve greatness.

PAUL AZEVEDO
Pacifica

The Watergate scenario is now unfolding in exactly the sequence that might have been anticipated. Administration involvement was successfully obscured until after the elections The next act will start with the resignation of some higher-ups under a cloud (as in the case of Sherman Adams).

. . . The third act is not so predictable; it will depend on the American public. Will it recognize that Watergate is not unique but is typical of the way the current administration operates?

. . . Will the American public perceive what is happening but accept it on the basis that "they all do it?" Or will they demand an upgrading of the ethical standards which guide the actions of our elected officials?

HARRY J. GOETT
Los Altos Hills

. . . Mr. Nixon should resign to restore the faith of the American people and the people around the world in the Republican Party, the United States of America and democracy itself. This does not mean that he would be turning the reigns of government over to the rival Democratic Party but rather to Vice President Spiro Agnew about whom there has not been a hint of involvement in this corruption.

. . . Mr. Agnew could then make a clean sweep of the executive branch and restore complete integrity to it. This dramatic unparalleled action by Mr. Nixon most likely would insure a Republican victory in 1976 and possibly in 1974 . . .

MELDON C. BELKNAP
Walnut Creek

. . . From times immemorial a man has been judged by the company he keeps. Nixon is in bad company The stink ascends to high heaven and makes the world hold its nose . . . It is up to the press to serve and safeguard the people of the United States When housecleaning is done the press will have accomplished this

ROBERT H. SIMPSON
Sacramento

Do those who swing on the Watergate thus view their woeful fix: "Since 'all is fair in love and war,' why not in politics?"

JO'N MILTON HAGEN
Mill Valley

. . . Please do not out-McCarthy Joe McCarthy and thereby be guilty of a crime greater than Watergate itself. The press should show more respect for truth . . . If only the facts had been published on Watergate a lot of trees would still be standing.

Congress, the press and the people could devote our attention to some of the country's minor problems such as the energy crisis, crime, pollution, tax loopholes, cost of living, world trade balance and other frivolous affairs

JESSE C. HARTMAN
San Francisco