

The World as Others See It

Watergate

Germany

Rheinische Post, Dusseldorf, Christian Democrat

The Watergate affair is the most serious crisis in American democracy which should not lead to crocodile tears in Europe but which should be observed with deep concern.



Die Welt, Hamburg, Independent - Conservative

The prestige of the Presidency as an institution has suffered heavily. . . Seldom in the history of the American Presidency did an absolute debacle follow without any transition after so absolute a triumph. . . The killer instinct now dominates the scene in Washington — members of the Administration, like scorpions in a bottle, are engaged in a deadly struggle for survival. . . It is a crisis of the system of government and political practices which now are in pressing need of general reform.

Frankfurter Rundschau, Frankfurt, Pro-Social Democratic

. . . Precisely because the United States is Europe's most powerful ally and precisely because the threads of Western power run together

in the White House in Washington, it cannot remain indifferent to . . . how the United States handles power. This is not a question of useless moralizing but of completely realistic policy.

Britain

The Sun, London, Independent

How much longer must the affair drag on before Richard Nixon gets out of the hottest seat in the world? . . . Such a flood of scandal would sweep any British leader from power. Americans may be more tolerant than we are . . . but now only the departure of Nixon can save the reputation of a great country.

The Sunday Telegraph, London, Conservative

The moment of truth may now be at hand for President Nixon as he struggles to remain in power in a situation where every day brings more dangerous erosions of confidence in his fitness to hold office.

The Daily Mail, London, Conservative

The U.S. newspapers have scored a great triumph in exposing the Watergate scandal. But they don't know when to stop. Now they are printing everything — rumors and innuendos, secret evidence, unproven allegations, scandals reheated, wild irrelevancies . . . anything that could damage their president. They have old scores to settle with Mr. Nixon. . . .

The American public and their Senators and Congressmen are much less enthusiastic. They find sinister echoes of the McCarthy witch-hunts in this orgy of allegation.

As always, a witch-hunt demands a non-stop supply of witches. And if there aren't enough, they have to be invented. The innocent are dragged to the stake along with the guilty. The newspapers themselves are not exactly beyond reproach. . . . Even thoughtful Democrats do not want Mr. Nixon to be rendered powerless for the rest of his term, let alone impeached. . . .