

Letters to the Ed

'Don't Ruin the Presidency'

To the Editor:

The United States should pause and take stock.

As a result of the Watergate revelations, the people of America are losing faith in their own governmental processes. But far worse is the effect on the opinion of the peoples of the world.

As an American living abroad, the most frequent comment I hear is that "America is destroying itself in the eyes of the world"; but more and more often I am told, "America is destroying the Western world."

Europeans express no surprise that the chief of Government should have organized spying and bugging activities against foreign embassies. They say this is standard operating procedure for all governments. When it comes to suspected domestic saboteurs or government opposition, they believe us to be extraordinarily naive. They have observed the character assassinations over the years in American political campaigns.

Was the diabolical campaign against Al Smith in 1928 by the Hoover forces, that the election of Smith meant the Pope would run the United States Government, any more legitimate than sending out false stories about one's opponents? The revelations about I.T.T., Chile and the C.I.A. come as no surprise. Has not our Government entered into clandestine backing of U.S. business foreign intrigues throughout the world from the time of the founding of the Republic?

Why does our leadership and our

press seem intent on self-immolation for suddenly discovered moral beliefs when it has all been a way of life in our system since the start?

True, the President's lieutenants got caught. But why don't we just throw the inept offenders to the wolves and don't ruin the Presidency? When we destroy the President's image, we destroy our country's and our own people's image.

Is Richard Nixon deserving of destruction?

We elected him twice; he fulfilled his promise of ending our participation in Vietnam; he freed our prisoners of war; he brought about a thaw in the ever-strained position of near-war with the Soviet Union and China. Should we not give him more of a chance to solve our sorry state of inflation and the absurd position of the dollar?

The United States faces a disastrous recession, a destruction of its effective participation in world affairs and, last but not least, a major reduction of the American share in world trade. Let us, therefore, give bipartisan support to President Nixon in striving for the solution of our overpowering problems.

The Democratic majority of the Congress can gain great prestige during the balance of Mr. Nixon's term by initiating, with the President, bipartisan solutions to our most pressing needs.

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The writer, a former Mayor of Miami Beach, is a son of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.