

WXPost
An Immigrant Compares Presidents Nixon and Marcos AUG 3 1973

As a permanent resident alien in this country—coming from the Philippines—it may be improper or unwise for me to offer comments publicly on the Watergate affair.

Nonetheless, I feel obligated to warn all American citizens—who have the predilection of sympathizing with the underdog—not to succumb to the temptation of going easy on President Nixon and his cohorts—who justifiably is now being crucified by the American press.

The political trend of the Nixon administration, as revealed by the Watergate investigations, was strikingly similar to the Marcos administration in the Philippines, before Marcos declared martial law—a mere prelude to dictatorship. Marcos did the same things that Nixon did—developing a “personality cult” and appointing men loyal to him to sensitive political positions (Marcos went farther by appointing all top army generals from his Ilocano region); blacklisting and surveillance of political opponents, wiretapping, extracting (or extorting) millions of pesos for political campaigns from rich individuals or corporations and so forth and so on ad nauseam.

The rest is history. Marcos suc-



Ferdinand Marcos

ceeded in overthrowing the constitutional form of government in the Philippines and installing himself as a virtual dictator. No one can say that President Nixon had the same designs as Marcos, but one shudders to think what might have happened if one obscure security guard did not do his

duty. For the religiously inclined, this was surely God's will.

Incidentally, the Manila Times, the counterpart of The Washington Post in Manila, kept on warning the Filipino people of the dangerous trend the Marcos administration was following but the people did not heed its warnings. The Manila Times is now closed and its publisher and some staff members placed in the stockade. Marcos justified his action by claiming that the Philippine independent press was a “licentious press” and further had the temerity of claiming that American-style democracy in the Philippines was a failure.

“Eternal vigilance is the price of Liberty,” may be meaningless words to the average American citizen, but to Filipinos like me—we now know the full import of these famous words.

Immigrants to the United States of America have also a stake—perhaps a much higher stake—in helping uphold the great traditions of democracy in this great nation. Immigrants from Cuba, Hungary, Korea, among many other ethnic groups now in the United States will know what I'm talking about

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