

The World As Others See It

The Tapes

Germany

The Sueddeutsche Zeitung,
Munich, Independent

President (Nixon), with these tape recordings, has at his disposal the absolutely convincing means of proving his innocence — and he did not use them. This is the biggest riddle that Watergate has given . . . He has preferred to throw the country into a wide crisis of confidence, endanger his own prestige and power of his office — to the point of a partial paralysis.

Frankfurter Rundschau,
Frankfurt, pro-Social Democrat

The discovery was reminiscent of George Orwell's "frightening, prophetic" book, "watered down somewhat," in any case through childish stunts from the world of James Bond. The only thing this newest disclosure has to do with the Watergate scandal is that it exposes a spirit that is unworthy of a world power. We are assured the tape record-

ers were turned off when foreign statesmen were at Camp David. But who can still believe a statesman who treated his own closest assistants and cabinet members as if he were a secret police boss.

Britain

The Times, London, Independent

When an accused man refuses to produce evidence which would decide the matter, the natural inference is that he does not do it because he dare not do it . . . What has to be decided is whether this is one of those conspiracies in which the head man is kept in the dark for his own protection . . . It will not be believed when the proof is in the hands of the President and he will not

produce it. He has decided on an astonishingly dangerous gamble.

Malaysia

Straits Times, Kuala Lumpur, Independent

John Dean has testified that the President knew about the cover-up . . . If the little which the President himself has said is true, the tapes will exonerate him. To insist that the tapes remain secret, and Nixon may indeed have this right, must make the President vulnerable.