

than that of beef. Since 1970 the price of cattle has risen from \$27.10 per hdw. to \$44.20 in July 1973, or by 63%. The price of hogs in the same period rose from \$22.70 per hdw. to \$41.00, an increase of 80%. Since January 1973 the cattle price has risen 19% and that of hogs, 32%.

Unquestionably we should place an import quota on pork, should we not? It would seem that Mr. Steinberg should look somewhere else than an import quota on beef for his beef against high beef prices!

O. R. STRACKBEIN,
President, The Nation-Wide Committee
on Import-Export Policy.

Washington.

Phone Calls to White House

After listening to and discussing the President's August 15 speech, I decided to call the White House and express my displeasure over the lack of substance in the speech and the lack of integrity that pervades the Nixon White House. The White House recipient of the call was polite, took the message, said telephone messages were being taken, and a poll was being made of these messages. Two of my friends also called, expressed their views, and received the same response.

Approximately one half hour later my wife called to express herself and was told that the White House policy for the last six to eight months was not to take telephonic messages. After questioning this statement in light of the above events, the White House hung up on her. Two more friends called, received the same *new* White House policy statement and after politely questioning the sudden reverse in policy, were hung up on. Aside from the discourteous nature of the White House response, this series of events suggests a highly negative reaction to the Nixon speech.

The August 16, 1973, Washington Post quotes Gerald L. Warren as saying that the White House received a large number of calls "predominantly in support of the President." Our experience in this matter suggests that the White House ought to get its policy straightened out so that it does not listen only to what it wants to hear since that is the policy that got them into Watergate. In the interim I am obliged to consider Mr. Warren's statement "inoperative."

LARRY DALE.

Kensington.

Newspapers and Watergate

You've done your job well. You've been our watchdog and we all appreciate the way in which you've defended our liberties. Now let's see if you can do another job—one that will be much harder. Help us pull the country back together and get on with all of the more important things that need to be done. Let's have an end to Watergate. Let the courts try the case from now on—not the newspapers.

We need to rally behind the President whether we like him or not; whether you like him or not, we need to support him. It's as essential for our country now, as uncovering Watergate was a few months ago.

DORIS ANN SAMPLES.

Dallas, Tex.

"Nigeria's Black Gold"

It is obvious that Robert Hunter's interest is purely a material one from his article "Nigeria's Black Gold" on August 13th. His narrow vision is

Power Plants

This letter is in response to Mr. R. Edward Augustine's letter published in your August 17 edition. I would like to clarify several of Mr. Augustine's arguments on the safety of nuclear reactors.

As regards Pepco's supposed silence on the risks versus the benefits of nuclear power, Augustine should know that Pepco and any other utility planning a nuclear power station is required by law to publish all design information and supporting data germane to the safety of the proposed installation. This is required well in advance of the actual construction of the facility. Further, Pepco cannot furnish information it does not possess. There is no hard data on nuclear reactor accident frequency since there has never been a nuclear accident at a commercial power station. In lieu of such data, Pepco must design its proposed reactor to a conservative set of assumptions which postulate the occurrence of accidents of varying degrees of severity. Augustine should also be aware of substantial efforts in reactor safety research currently being supported by the Atomic Energy Commission, the reactor suppliers and the utilities. This research should provide additional assurance to Augustine that Pepco and