

The President's Achievement

To the Editor:

Let's give credit where it is due. A much-beleaguered President Nixon faces a monumental political and military crisis in the Mideast and through a combination of firmness, negotiation and diplomacy helps to keep the crisis from escalating into World War III. Not only that, but it appears to me that the United States, through President Nixon, almost alone in the world has taken a Mideast position solely on moral principles and has not succumbed to the threats, terrorism and blackmail so successfully employed by the Arabs against world leaders having less moral toughness than our President.

JERRY I. DICKSTEIN

Great Neck, L. I., Oct. 31, 1973

Senatorial Reversal

To the Editor:

Saul Sigelschiffer in his Oct. 28 letter is mistaken in stating that Senators Ervin and Baker accepted the President's tape compromise. As soon as they found out that each of them was separately trapped in not getting a verbatim copy of the tapes but only a summary, they called off any deal, particularly after learning of Mr. Cox's dismissal.

HANS ERBER

Brooklyn, Oct. 28, 1973

Reply to a Nixon Defender

To the Editor:

In the Nov. 1 letter from Ruth Merkin she upholds the President's courageous defense of "our form of government" with its "system of checks and balances."

It is, surely, this system of checks and balances, asserting itself at the commencement of the Watergate inquiry, which is now in jeopardy as a result of the President's high-handed and bewildering actions.

As Ms. Merkin says in her opening phrase: "In spite of all the rhetoric and hysteria, one fact emerges with absolute clarity." The fact, though, is that corruption appears to exist within the executive (Mr. Agnew's conviction was no myth) and the President's dismissal of a man appointed to investigate the possibility of this corruption looks very much like complicity.

STANLEY H. CANHAM

New York, Nov. 1, 1973