

# Save Our President

Our President should not resign. Instead, the biased national news media should resign—resign themselves to a philosophy of fairness, objectivity, and unslanted news reporting.

If the American public is losing confidence in the President, it was inevitable, once the biased national media decided that Watergate, finally, was the issue they could keep alive indefinitely with headlines until they weakened and destroyed the President. Watergate is more of a crisis by media than a crisis by deed.

The gradual evolution in this nation of a grossly biased think-alike, sound-alike national news media—capable of immediate and direct access to the minds and emotions of virtually our entire population—poses a serious threat to our republic's vital system of checks and balances. The national news media—devoid of competition in social and political philosophies—constitutes a powerful monopoly of ideas. By using this monopolistic power, they can mold public and lawmakers' opinions in the image of media philosophies. In the final analysis, the national news media—elected by no one—can control our national Government. Their success in the Watergate matter proves it.

This coalition of the biased national news media and media pets in Congress should call a moratorium on pummeling the Administration with the Watergate affair, and should focus national attention on the normal business of government and critical problem solving.

This short-sighted coalition sees only one evil—the Administration. It is trying to investigate this country to death. During Colonial times, there was a medical practice known as bleeding. Bleeding was supposed to be good for the patient. Only, sometimes it was so good for the patient, it killed him. Whom are they trying to kill with endless investigations and headlines?

Foreign capitals are bewildered by our national masochism. Under a headline, "Masochistic America," a Parisian journal, *Valeurs Actuelles*, stated: "The destruction of President Nixon is nonsensical, both constitutionally and politically. This is revenge . . ."

The monolithic national news media continue to use this trite rationale: "We are only the messengers. Blame the people who make the bad news." If this was true under the old-style objective journalism, it is not true anymore under the new advocacy journalism. The "Big Brother" national news media, with their enormous investigative and opinion-making powers not only deliver the news, they create the news! They decide for us—depending upon their own biased political and sociological philosophies—who will get a "good press" and who will get a "bad press"; who is a "good guy" and who is a "bad guy"; what is a crisis and what is not a crisis.

Commenting on the power of the media, Pulitzer prize-winning author-historian Theodore H. White, in his new book, *The Making of the President—1972* aptly noted: "The power of the press is a primordial one. It sets the agenda of public discussion; and this sweeping political power is unrestrained by any law. It determines what people will talk and think about—authority that in other nations is reserved for tyrants, priests, parties and mandarins."

England's author-philosopher Malcolm Muggeridge said on a recent U.S. talk show that he wondered how any government in this nation could survive, if all its deficiencies were constantly magnified and paraded on national television. Jack Parr, in an article in *Look* magazine a decade ago, pointed out the basic problem of a power source, which has no check and balance on its power, when he wrote: "The American press has always been in the position of wielding the whip, never of being lashed by it."

Historical perspective will prove that the issue of Watergate is primarily a media issue rather than an issue of moral importance. Good men, and great men, are capable of misdeeds. But one must balance, with realism and pragmatism, the importance and benefit of good deeds against the harm of bad deeds. Despite Watergate and related matters, Richard Nixon is a good man—a man of wisdom, courage and strength, who, fortunately, for our nation's survival, has a keen sense of global perspective and national direction.

But, unfortunately, Mr. Nixon does not have the special style, charisma and the super-liberal philosophy to earn the love of the national news media. He is simply not their man. In Watergate, the national news media found a mini-issue, and, employing McCarthyism tactics, blew that mini-issue into crisis proportions to destroy the President. They uncovered a germ and spread it into a national disease.

The misguided coalition of the national news media and media pets in Congress has wrong priorities. Attacking and investigating the Administration is not our most vital business. Any far-sighted view of the basic problems affecting our daily lives, and the unfolding events in foreign lands, would prove that these are the issues toward which we should direct our national energies: 1) Striving for world peace, and insuring America's military and diplomatic ability to survive on this planet in peace; 2) Freeing our cities from the fear and repression of violent crimes; 3) Improving our national health and living conditions; 4) Maintaining ample national resources; 5) Maintaining a healthy economy.

But these issues do not seem to overly concern this coalition. It is too obsessed with plaguing the public consciousness with its national pastime—searching out and publicizing anti-Nixon minutiae in a campaign to destroy him.

**PAUL B. LOWNEY**

(Chairman, Committee For Media Fairness)

1808 40th Avenue East  
Seattle, Washington 98112

*Note: This ad paid for by Paul Lowney. Contributions will be used to run this ad in leading U.S. publications.*