

NYTimes FEB 2 1974

Nixon Smokescreen

To the Editor:

Bruce Herschensohn's Jan. 13 Op-Ed article demonstrates that he is a skillful writer, but his fluent style fails to conceal his faulty logic or his lack of substance. Mr. Herschensohn discerns an inconsistency in Ralph Nader's position toward Richard Nixon and toward his own subordinate, namely William Dobrovir, who played a Presidential tape at a Georgetown cocktail party.

Mr. Dobrovir committed a stupid act, for which he immediately (one day after the deed occurred) apologized. This indiscreet act, as Mr. Nixon and Mr. Herschensohn would have to acknowledge, was in no way illegal or unconstitutional, as are many of the acts associated with the President. Moreover, it seems clear that Mr. Dobrovir and the entire Nader staff have learned their lesson and that there will be no recurrence of such acts.

What also seems clear, perfectly clear, is that spokesmen for Mr. Nixon, like Mr. Herschensohn, are trying their mightiest to throw up smokescreens by manufacturing nonexistent analogies. They would better serve the country by producing "nonexistent" tapes.

EDWARD S. DERMON

Roslyn Heights, L. I., Jan. 13, 1974