

NYTimes

Letters to the Editor

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On Mr. Nixon's Address and the State of the Presidency

To the Editor:

Contrary to The New York Times' position on Watergate, I would support President Nixon's statement, "One year of Watergate is enough."

It isn't that America wants to forget Watergate; rather the American people are like a family watching a relative dying of cancer (to use John Dean's metaphor). The "family" (as polls show) wants some resolution of the problem one way or the other. Either the patient should die (impeachment) or be cured (exonerated).

The United States is suffering with Watergate, and it's time we had a resolution of the situation.

MARTIN H. SOKOL
Great Neck, L. I., Feb. 1, 1974



To the Editor:

Mr. Nixon's State of the Union message is a landmark in American history. Never before has a President of the United States incorporated so many fabrications, distortions, omissions and worthless platitudes into a single speech.

Crime may have decreased in the streets of Washington, as Mr. Nixon stated, but in the Government buildings there it has certainly increased.

I disagree with the President. Our first priority is not energy. It is good government. If we'd had an honest and responsible Administration, the energy crisis could never have been manufactured in the first place.

Many Congressmen are reserving their judgement on impeachment. If they fail to see their duty and call for the impeachment of a President who has impaired his own ability to govern with credibility, then they too will become involved in the Watergate affair — as accessories after the fact.

BRIAN D. BIXBY
Providence, R. I., Jan. 30, 1974

To the Editor:

One year of Watergate is not enough, it is far too much. 1973 was not a very easy year for President Nixon personally or his family. Nor was it an easy year for the American people.

But the year would have been far easier for all of us if Mr. Nixon had sensed and responded to the people's desire, right and need to know the whole truth about this scandalous affair and made an early and complete disclosure of all he knows and doesn't know about every aspect of this matter.

Even now he seems not to sense the need to restore the people's confidence and trust in him and his leadership before he can possibly begin to meet and solve some of the problems and challenges facing this country.

If the President wants the Watergate matter resolved, and promptly,

then he must show the people he really means what he says by giving his total cooperation to the House Judiciary Committee's requests and by other actions of disclosure and forthrightness that make it clear to everyone he has nothing to hide. He must open up and let some light in on his operations.

The people have a right to know the whole truth, and until we do, Mr. Nixon won't have our confidence, and we won't have his leadership.

DAVID BARCLAY HOOPES
Greenwich, Conn., Jan. 31, 1974

To the Editor:

At first I thought it was highly impolitic for President Nixon to stand before the men who are to decide whether or not he shall remain in office and to proclaim to them defiantly that his Presidency would run for eight years. But then I thought of Colonel Sherburn.

Colonel Sherburn is the character in "Huckleberry Finn" who aroused the wrath of his fellow townspeople by coldly gunning down a harmless village drunk. A huge crowd went to his house to lynch him, but he stepped out onto the roof of his front porch, "perfectly calm and deliberate," and told them that they did not have "pluck enough" to do it.

"Your mistake is," he said, "that you didn't bring a man with you." And going on, "Now the thing for you to do, is to droop your tails and go home and crawl in a hole." When he had finished his speech, he cocked his gun and said, "Now leave." At once the crowd broke, and everybody went tearing off in all directions, "looking tolerable cheap."

Is there a man in the House?

THOMAS AMPER
Great Neck, L. I., Jan. 31, 1974