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Impeach After Resignation

In his letter published Feb. 28 ("Easy Way Out"), Mr. Bolgiano seems to imply that if President Nixon resigns, he cannot be impeached or tried. Precedent clearly shows, however, that the impeachment power is not so limited.

In 1876, William W. Belknap was impeached and tried for accepting bribes. Belknap had resigned his post as Grant's Secretary of War before the House voted articles of impeachment, but after several House committee inquiries into his actions had begun. He was acquitted by the Senate on all articles.

Impeachment and a subsequent trial are the only way the American people will ever get answers to the disturbing questions raised by Richard Nixon. We can ask those questions and demand the answers whether Richard Nixon resigns or remains President.

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