

WXPost MAR 17 1974  
*The Presidency of Richard Milhous Nixon*

Richard Nixon has built his political career through a ready willingness to use any and every person, idea, and institution that might advance his own interest. He has drawn to himself, used, and discarded men like Mitchell, Stans, Richardson, Erlichman, Dean, and Kalmbach. When the times were suitable, he used ideas like anti-communism, anti-welfare, peace with honor, detente, and national security as means of furthering and cloaking his own purposes and ambitions.

Now, in predictable fashion, Nixon is using the office of the presidency itself as a shield for his failures and abuses in the White House. His continued presence there has become a dread burden upon the nation and his party. Yet Nixon's pride and fear impel him to hang on—to "tough it out"—no matter what the cost to the country. And the cover-up he uses for his obstinacy is that he is defending the executive office: "I want the presidency to survive." (Press conference, Feb. 25.)

Will the American people be fooled (again) by Nixon's tactic of identifying his person with the presidency? How can the present or future of Nixon affect the status and prospects of our constitutional office? We are a government, not of men, but of laws and in-

stitutions. Agnew, for example, cast a corrupt shadow while Vice President, but the office survived both his presence and his departure. The same holds true for Nixon. His leaving the White House will bring an immense relief to the nation; and the presidency, cleansed by his departure, will live on.

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### *Pay Raise?*

It is difficult in this age of Watergate to spark an indignant response from my jaded senses. You, however, have done so with your March 5 editorial on congressional pay. You state, "Many members of Congress are young men and women of modest means who are expected to travel widely, entertain frequently, dress well and live in good housing." That in a nut shell is the rationale for Mr. Agnew's misfortune; have we all lost our sense of value? Young men and women of modest means should live modestly. Until that philosophy obtains once more, this nation will continue to be, and deserves to be, in the stew.

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