

# Letters to the Editor

## Of Watergate and 'Closing the Circus'

To the Editor:

John Dean's credibility was destroyed by a jury composed of Americans in all walks of life, in the Mitchell and Stans case. Since he is the main accuser of President Nixon what is the Judiciary Committee waiting for to close the case against the President? Are they still fishing and wasting the taxpayers' money? Let Congress close the circus and get down to present business, domestic and foreign.

JEROME G. BACCHI, D.D.S.  
Ridgewood, N. Y., April 29, 1974

To the Editor:

The country is not going to the dogs. Daddy still comes home at 6:30; Wendy is still taking piano lessons; Peter is still the best first baseman on the Livermore High team. Leave the bustling city, families are still using the parks; boys and girls still hold hands; automobiles are still being polished, sidewalks swept and awnings raised and lowered each day. All of it goes on at the same tempo, with the same fervor or lack of it as before—way before.

Trouble is not with the all of us but just the few of us who have the power that we gave them in our pre-occupation with piano lessons and auto polishing. But that's not new.

Always the power we gave them was abused, sometimes excessively, sometimes moderately, but this time something new has been added: the misuse of power in that it is directed against the free movement of people; not all people, just some, and this is an entering wedge that must be

arrested if this country is not to go to the dogs.

It seems that this is what impeachment is all about. The proliferation of this new kind of power has been identified, and an attempt at its reduction or elimination is now being made. The impeachment process is not going to tear the country apart, it's not going to end Wendy's piano lessons, allow the sidewalks to gather dirt or the finish on the car to get dull. It will take something far more serious than the changing of the guard at the White House to alter the rhythm of life as we know it in America.

RALPH J. APPLETON  
Douglaston, N.Y., May 6, 1974

To the Editor:

The White House tapes clarify two things. One is that President Nixon was not personally involved in Watergate. He did not plan it, approve it, or have any knowledge of the break-in until after it happened.

The second obvious fact, however, is that President Nixon tried to avoid having the offenses publicized and prosecuted. He was searching desperately for ways to cover up the bungling of his friends and others who were trying to help him.

Technically this is a crime. But it was also the decent, humane thing to do. If we impeach him for it, I shall be deeply ashamed of our country. Laws or no laws, what do we want our President to be—a rat-fink?

JOHN L. BECKLEY  
North Caldwell, N. J., May 7, 1974