

Why the President

Must Not Resign

To the Editor:

Suddenly Presidential resignation is being widely touted as a reasonable end to our national crisis. I find this a deeply disturbing prospect, and this is why:

In the last dozen years a series of events have repeatedly limited and thwarted the nation's freedom of choice and the carrying-out of its democratically expressed will in Presidential matters. Among these, I believe, are the murder of John Kennedy in the midst of his Presidential term; the murder of Robert Kennedy, a viable (and some think probable) candidate for the Presidency, in the midst of the 1968 primary campaign; the dirty tricks of the Nixon people, which clearly limited the free choice of many Americans in yet another Presidential campaign; the probable accession to the Presidency of Gerald Ford, who would become the first man in our history to be President without being chosen in a national election.

On top of all this, we now have the specter of Nixon slipping out of office without being charged, judged or held accountable for a series of accusations which allege behavior contrary to his oath to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution. We have the right, I believe—President and people—to have the charges against the President brought and adjudicated by our elected representatives. If, during this period, Nixon could not govern, as many believe, he can take the 25th Amendment and wait on the sidelines for due process.

Resignation would cheat the nation once again of democratic self-expression in high Presidential matters. I don't believe we can stand this with-

out further dangers to a constitutionally based Government. PETER SIMON  
New York, May 12, 1974

If He Steps Down . . .

To the Editor:

I am a Republican, and I intend to remain one. I supported the President in 1972, mainly because of his foreign-policy successes and his handling of the Vietnam war.

Nevertheless, I believe that the Watergate revelations, and other charges brought against the President make it a must that the President be impeached. Impeachment is the only means by which the truth or falsity of the charges can be determined. But what if he should resign? How then can the truth be determined, as I believe it must be.

When President Kennedy was assassinated, his successor appointed a commission to determine the circumstances of the assassination. If President Nixon should resign, I believe his successor should appoint a similar commission to determine whether the President is indeed guilty of the charges made against him. Or whether, as he himself contends, he is a victim of slander and innuendo by his critics and the news media.

The commission, like the previous one, should be headed by the Chief Justice. It should include members of both political parties as well as responsible citizens such as jurists, lawyers and historians.

I believe that it is in the interest of the nation that this be done. Whatever happens, the whole truth should be told. Nothing must be left out.

PHILIP S. SNYMAN  
New York, May 8, 1974