

W. Post
7-30-74

Mr. NIXON

I'm taking BACK my vote

... and I've thought and anguished a long time before making this decision to cancel my part of the "mandate" you prefer to hide behind instead of once-and-for-all settling the Watergate mess so that we could ALL believe you're not a "Crook!"

I have taken this rather expensive way of writing to you for two reasons. First, I didn't think a letter to the editor or a regular ten cent one would ever be brought to your attention (possibly this won't either), and second, I hope that all who believe as I do will clip out this piece and mail it to you at the White House. For I do not believe that I'm the only American who voted for you who is damned sick and tired of your covert tactics in clearing up a mess that was done in your name and is crippling the entire country!

For all the years I was growing up, my father was a law-and-order Metropolitan D.C. policeman (long retired), and I voted for you because you promised "law-and-order" among other things. I wish you could tell me just what is law-and-order about secretly tape recording telephone and face-to-face conversations without the other party being aware of it?! If it is legal, it certainly isn't morally right!

What is law-and-order about withholding evidence in the name of "national security" from those investigators and congressmen trying to get to the bottom of Watergate and assess guilt? What is law-and-order about tapes which suddenly are "missing" or never were "really" made, and "accidental" erasures which turn out to be purposefully done? What is law-and-order about the firing of Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox who did nothing but his job—perhaps too well?!

What is law-and-order about your former Vice President being allowed to "plea-bargain" in order to receive a lighter sentence than he might have gotten? Again, it may be legal, but it isn't morally right, and certainly sets one Hell of an example for the youth of this nation! Why SHOULD they have any respect for the law when it is bent for those at the top and used outlandishly against those at the bottom, such as a youngster who only smokes pot?!

Again, on the side of morality, why should I, as an ordinary letter-carrier, willingly pay more in federal AND state taxes than the leader of the land who makes twenty times the income I do? The taxpayers provide you the White House and Camp David, so why should we foot ANY bills because San Clemente or Key Biscayne is preferred by Richard Nixon? What is legal OR moral about the backdating of legal documents used for the tax write-off of your Vice Presidential papers, when the original legal documents

(showing a supposed legal date) have somehow become mysteriously "lost"?!

Like the story of the boy who cried "wolf" so often that he finally was not believed, I'm not sure if you told the Gospel Truth now, I would—or could—believe you!

You defend your administration with your trips to China and Russia and in bringing our boys home from a war that STILL continues. I say great! But what about here at home? You were re-elected President of the UNITED STATES, not of Russia, China, or the World!

How about the high prices in ALL the stores; the gas and oil shortages; the people who are out-of-work—where is THEIR President?! He has gone! He has crippled his leadership by his inept handling of Watergate and related affairs. And the only thing for him to do now is completely abdicate—TO RESIGN—and let this great country get back to the things at hand, the things that Richard Nixon can NOW no longer lead us in!

Lastly, you might notice that I addressed this to "Mr. Nixon" NOT "Mr. President." That is because I have respect for the office of President, and no longer have the same for you. Of the small twenty-six percent who still support you, I am no longer in their number! Consequently, I am taking back the vote I mistakenly cast in your behalf. I don't believe that you're an out-and-out crook, but neither are you a "true" President any longer!

I hope that others who share these views will clip this out and mail it to you at the White House so that you will stop trying to kid yourself that there is any "mandate" left!

Sincerely,

James A. Lemon

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Contributions urgently needed to re-publish this message! Mail copies to Congressmen and Senators DEMANDING impeachment AND conviction of Mr. Nixon!