

The Inquisitors' Tears

To the Editor:

After months of assiduously and avidly working for the very decision they have just achieved, the self-righteous majority of the Judiciary Committee is now begging for compassion, in true soap-opera style, for having brought it about; not a dry eye in the house. O hypocrites, O crocodile tears.

Sanctimoniousness is being used to mask motives of either party bias or personal future political ambition (with friends like Railsback et al., who needs enemies?). Indeed, during the first two days of the television hearings precious time was spent on a "popularity contest" in aid of Rodino; is he running for something?—President, perhaps?

Far from looking grief-stricken, recent photographs have shown some members positively beaming from ear to ear, hardly able to contain licking their lips in gleeful anticipation of possible "victory" — bringing disturbingly to mind the picture of Hitler's jubilant jig over the dead body of France.

What is so frightening is that others' vindictiveness can be whipped up into a tidal wave of such extreme hatred, gathering mindless others in its wake, that it in itself becomes more evil than its original target—all the more so for being cloaked in piousness.

Mop up your tears, gentlemen.

P. M. TEESDALE
New York, July 29, 1974

NYTimes • AUG 8 1974
'A Necessary Catharsis'

To the Editor:

Also an "independent Democrat," I feel compelled loudly and publicly to take exception to the July 27 letter of Donal Foley, in which he refers to impeachment proceedings as "a bad show."

To the contrary, if Mr. Nixon and his cohort are allowed to get away with the kinds of immoral and illegal acts in which they have been engaged; if no punishment were meted out to these high officials for their most serious crimes against the people of this country, when petty crooks across the U.S. get thrown in the slammer for the most minor offenses; if we as a people, as a House and Senate, turn away from this grave responsibility—that, sir, would be a bad show!

To me, much more important than the fate of Mr. Nixon is the fate of our Government, and of the attitudes toward it held by our young people who will, in ten or twenty years, be running things. How tragic, for them and for us, if what they learn from all this is: If you're important enough, you can get away with anything.

Far from being "vengeance," I feel the impeachment proceeding—whether or not it results in Mr. Nixon's removal from office—is a most necessary catharsis. BEATRICE S. BOKERT
Staten Island, N.Y., July 27, 1974