

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reality

Editor — Nixon is out and Ford is in, and the fact remains that every day across the country millions of words are written and published in the news media. When all this rhetorical verbiage is equated with the physical facts of reality it boils down to the situation where day by day a dollar buys less potatoes to put on the table. Multiply that by 210 million humans and it spells trouble in large letters.

TOM GIBBINS

Santa Rosa.

History Will Judge

Editor — . . . Mr. Nixon did not relinquish his office because he had lost his political base in Congress. He brought about his own destruction by admittedly obstructing justice, and then lying to protect those involved. He therefore abused the special trust the electorate had given to him. The American people forced him to give up an office he no longer deserved.

Yet in spite of Mr. Nixon's resignation some people remain uneasy. Prosecution of the President must take place, they maintain, to prevent him from being above the law. Richard Nixon must have his day in court to guarantee this will never happen again.

I cannot agree with this argument. The events of past months have demonstrated that liberties taken with the Constitution will not be tolerated. Congress and the Supreme Court will not cater to any President. The system of checks and balances maintains a brash durability. If Richard Nixon was above the law he would not be a private citizen today.

I hardly think that Nixon must be dragged through the courts to insure against future Watergates. The prospect of forceable forfeiture of the presidency is frightening; future Presidents would find little consolation in the fact that they would not be prosecuted. The post-Watergate White House will be the subject of intensified vigilance from a wary country, further

reducing the chances of a repeat performance.

Richard Nixon will not get off lightly. Perhaps time will erase the haunting agony of how easy it would have been to avoid. Perhaps the years will soften the humiliation. I doubt it. No matter; he will learn to live with it.

But will Richard Nixon be able to accept his history? An administration that saw the Vice President and President resign from office — admitting to criminal acts. The corruption, the years of scandal, the box score of convictions: all faithfully chronicled. Pushed to the back will be his accomplishments, ever in the shadow.

DAVID FREEMAN

San Mateo.

The Next Business

Editor — The most important things to be done by Congress right now are to decontaminate campaign financing (if public financing is the answer then so be it, but keep the length of time as well as the amount of money expended at a lower level than is done now), and to disallow ex-President Nixon the usual amenities of a past president. He did not do the office of the presidency justice. He did not leave the office of the presidency in honor and although I too had tears of compassion for him in his final hour, it would never sit well to see him continue to gain from his years as President.

MARILYN GOSSLER

San Mateo.

Tonnage

Editor — In response to the letter of Leonard Zoph August 9, it was not my intention to overlook the crimes of Lyndon Johnson. His Indochina record is well documented in this regard. However, to set the record straight, the total tonnage of bombs expended under the Nixon administration is substantially higher than under Johnson.

The Pentagon Information Service lists a total of 3,191,417 tons dropped under Johnson's

leadership. It lists 3,633,022 dropped under Nixon, and this does not include the last six months of the war.

To the victims of the napalm, fragmentation, and high explosive bombs it could make no difference, and in the final analysis the shame lies with our total society, something that most Americans have yet to face up to.

DOUGLAS MATTERN

Palo Alto.

Alerted

Editor — Thank you for your editorial concerning the proposed repeal of the 1971 act requiring anti-smog devices on 1966-70 automobiles. It alerted me to write to my senator and assemblyman and to Senator Holmdahl thanking him for instituting this legislation. Nothing earth-shaking, but of real importance to those three million of us who depend on those older models still giving effective and vital transportation.

PAUL A. EXELBY, M.D.

Sonoma.

An Election Needed

Editor — Gerald Ford should be designated Acting President until a new election is held. After all, he is the choice of Mr. Nixon; he has not been elected by the people in the democratic process.

LOUISA SIMON

San Francisco.

Two Bits Worth

Editor — Being a native New Yorker, I would like to add my two bits of Brooklynese information.

This has mainly to do with the wordy citizen who's fond of misusing the word "use" in this manner:

"Use you to go to the concoit?"

"Certainly I use, use you?"

"Sure I use, what you t'ink I'm asten yuh fer?"

"Usen't you go when Toscaninny was conductin'?"

"Yeah, I use."

JOHN E. MITCHELL

Sacramento.