

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AUG 17 1974

WXPost

## Nixon's Resignation and the Press

Now that you have succeeded in your self-appointed task of driving from office a man whose political philosophy was at variance with yours—albeit with some help from him—the nation might more readily believe in your protestations of political non-bias if you go on to delve into suspect activities and stories of those on the same side of the political fence as yourselves. Particularly if the same zeal and determination and persistence go into the pursuit as those evidenced in the gleeful destruction of Richard M. Nixon.

If this does not occur, then the power of the liberal press is a frightening specter to contemplate for our political future, since it will be able to feed on its success and make or unmake anyone who displeases it regardless of the electorate. No tyrant has ever had more.

It will be very interesting to watch your future activities.

MRS. R. F. BURGERT.

Dallas.

Congratulations on the fantastic job you did in breaking one of the finest Presidents that we have ever had.

You have certainly shown that cruelty, pettiness and libel are alive and well—living in the good ole' U.S.A.

You have really had the "upper hand" through this entire affair—printing "suppositions" as fact, pandering to the lowest instincts of the public. I realize you justified mistakes, by printing small retractions on the last page—which no one remembers seeing.

You should continue to dig dirt about Mr. Nixon, attacking him wherever possible. By all means, don't give him any slack by mentioning any of the good things he has done for the country while in office.

Perhaps I can convince others, that it is time we allowed politicians to apply for jobs—and voted on unscrupulous newspaper personnel.

MRS. J. G. ANDREWS.

Washington.

It is rather a fascinating comment on our times that so many Washington Post readers find it incumbent upon themselves to denounce the newspaper and its reporters with such phrases as "hounded him out of office," "biased reporting," etc. How strange it is that these same Americans did not hear what our Judiciary Committee reported, often directly quoting Mr. Nixon. It seems that their "selective listening" apparatus was turned on.

Those who are so concerned about scapegoating a former President may think seriously about what purpose it serves to scapegoat the press. No one has accused the press of the misdeeds of Watergate, inappropriate C.I.A. in-

vestigations, F.B.I. misuses, or delving into private citizen's tax returns.

Our constitution guarantees the freedom of the press (and by so doing permits full investigation so long as it is not against the law), and it also claims that "no man is above the law."

Too bad that the man who occupies the presidency also occupies the role of the ultimate "father figure" for so many. It is easier to punish the press than it is to punish Richard Nixon for having been "the bad father."

JOYCE H. SEGAL.

Alexandria.

Now that you have successfully run President Nixon out of office, what in the world will you find to print? Some other trash I assume.

LUCILLE HART.

Washington.

You should take great pride in The Washington Post and its painstaking work over the last two years in the Watergate affair. Your staff has made

a contribution to America that will rank equally with or greater than many of her fighting men. The pen is mightier than the sword.

Now, however, you must continue your job of protecting this country. Your article about setting the record straight, totally and finally, points up another danger from Mr. Nixon.

Please continue your all-out efforts to see that the record is honest, and that Mr. Nixon does not simply walk away, protesting innocence, and thereby permitting his kind of conduct to visit us once more. This must be done, not in a sense of vindictiveness, because that is not necessary, but because otherwise Mr. Nixon will leave us with the sense of divisiveness with which he led us.

You have my gratitude for your perseverance, courage and vision.

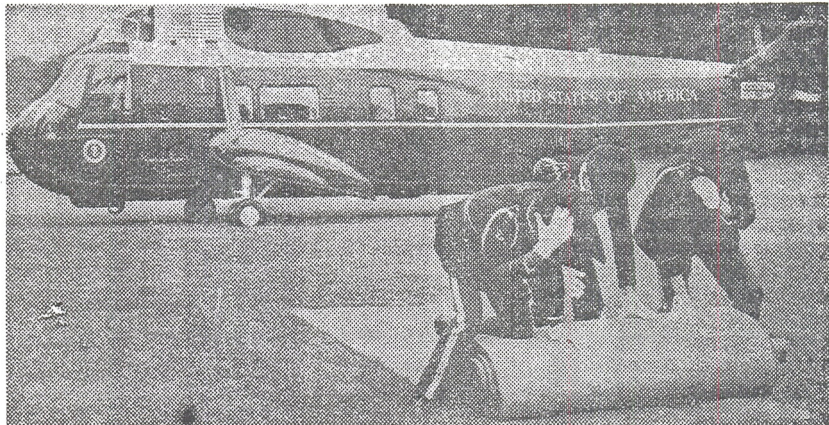
NORMAN P. SINGER.

Rockville.

Are you satisfied?

JOHN E. VETTER.

McLean.



I always enjoy the editorial pages of The Post, but the August 9 edition in particular. I must thank you and your writers for the integrity and courage you have shown despite sharp criticism and opposition during the Watergate years.

May I express my gratitude to William Raspberry for his article August 9 saying so well what I feel, especially in regard to the role of Frank Wills in having exposed Watergate. If not for his vigilance and honesty, the conspiracy against our government might never have been discovered. The lesson this teaches us is that the most humble can fulfill a responsibility in the preservation of our democracy.

CORNELIA B. SHEARY.

Hillcrest Heights, Md.

You have won this round but history will give the decision to Mr. Nixon.

JEFFREY L. REED.

Bellevue, Ohio.

It is a sad day in the history of this country when the news media is allowed to destroy a President. Such a show of arrogance and unbridled power under the guise of "freedom of the press" is disastrous to our form of government.

ALDEN K. STUBBS.

Punta Gorda, Fla.

Couldn't you have come up with a bigger point type than that used on your August 9 front page? A better headline might have been "WE FINALLY WON!" Or don't you agree that this was a really great victory for the power of the liberal press in this country?

If conservatives have learned anything from all this, let it be the lesson not to mess with the vast power of the completely liberal and unfairly biased press in this great land of ours.

GERALD L. REXRODE.

Arlington.