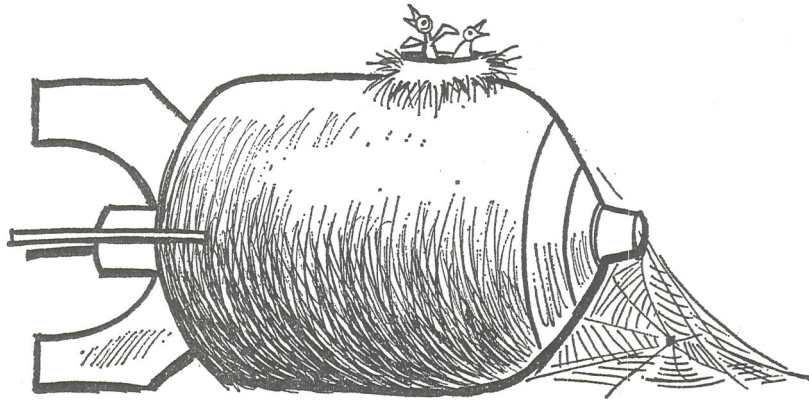


Of Mr. Nixon and the 'Peace Myth'



Fred Schwab

To the Editor:

One thing that events of the past week clearly demonstrate is the public's poor memory. When Vice President Ford tearfully invokes everyone's prayers for peace to Richard Nixon "who has brought peace to millions," Ford recklessly wields the spray can to embellish further the massive peace myth Nixon has so energetically created.

True, when Nixon came to the White House our troops were actively engaged in Vietnam. True, when he left the White House our troops, or at least most of them, were home. But that war continues, thanks to our support, as do two other wars in which we have a very positive involvement. Threats, bribes and Scotch-tape diplomacy have never created a durable peace. The dove does not nest in the mouth of the cannon.

If Americans are no longer engaged in active fighting in Vietnam because Richard Nixon brought them home, whose strong advocacy sent them there in the first place? Richard Nixon's. When? In 1954, before 700 members of the American Society of Newspaper Editors in Washington, speaking "off the record" under a beguiling anonymity as "spokesman for the Administration" (Eisenhower's) Nixon advocated sending in U.S. ground forces to save the French colonials. "He talks like a gibbering idiot," Col. Robert McCormick of The Chicago Tribune said.

"We should stay out of Indochina no matter what happens."

Two nights later in Cincinnati, he was again championing U.S. involvement. "This is not a civil war," said Nixon to University of Cincinnati alumni, "it is a war of aggression by the Communist conspiracy against all the free nations. The Chinese Communist Government supports, controls and directs it. It is not a war to perpetuate French colonialism but to resist extension of Chinese Communism."

Nixon listed the "four failures" of the Truman Administration, continuing, "Vacillation and weakness lead to war. It is time to let the men in the Kremlin know that in the future they might be held accountable."

Peacemaker? Détente with Red China and the Soviet Union?

And what of "Operation Vulture," that same year's aborted secret plan of Dulles, Nixon, Radford and Eisenhower to drop two atomic bombs, one on Communist positions at Dienbienphu, the other on China? No myth that. The reconnaissance was flown, the mission mounted, armed with the bombs and 98 bombers and 450 fighters; two aircraft carriers were deployed for it. Only Winston Churchill and Matthew Ridgway prevented that unspeakable horror. China and Russia know of this. The American people do not. And Gerald Ford has not done his home work.

ALBIN DEARING
Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Aug. 10, 1974

Rodino's Achievement

To the Editor:

Our nation owes Peter Rodino a debt of gratitude. The right ordering of the House Judiciary Committee hearings is in large part responsible for our current transition in Government. The fact that the hearings were properly conducted attested to their validity and acceptance by the people in the United States. Mr. Rodino's unflinching patience, his innate courtesy, his obvious respect for his fellow committee members as well as for the Constitution—all these contributed to the success of the hearings.

The proceedings are undoubtedly on tape so that future historians and students can study them and be aware of the dignity and fairness with which they were conducted. META S. DAY
Narberth, Pa., Aug. 10, 1974

Save the Monitors

To the Editor:

Since the White House is already equipped with a monitoring system, may I suggest that it should not be allowed to fall into disrepair. Doesn't

history seem to fairly cry out that the system be maintained, even expanded? Certainly the maintenance, expansion and operation should not pose any insurmountable obstacles (I need hardly say why not). If at this stage in the development of our country this is the only way we can keep Mom and Apple Pie straight, I for one say it ought to be done.

RICHARD D. RIEDY
Bronx, Aug. 8, 1974

Inflexible Institutions

To the Editor:

There has been a great deal of praise for our great political and judicial institutions' handling of the Watergate affairs. On the contrary, I think it is a sad day when our nation forgets the accomplishments of a man whose life is public service and drives him from office because of what he honestly, if wrongly, thought was in the best interest of the nation. Institutions that are so inflexible and politically oriented cannot be great.

JAMES SNYDER
Ashland, Ky., Aug. 8, 1974