## BJ DOUBLES DRAFT TO 35,000 A MONTH

# **AMERICANS ABROAD: HOW THEY SEE US NOW**

For more than a year, while millions of Americans followed the Watergate Scandal in their local press and on television, tens of thousands of their fellow citizens living abroad were equally engrossed by the unfolding constitutional drama. Many of these expatriates left the United States in the first place because a decade of assassinations, war, riots, racial strife, crime and political corruption had convinced them that there was something fundamentally wrong with America. Now, in the wake of Nixon's resignation, how do these Americans overseas feel about their country? From the vantage of Europe, here is a sampling of expatriate views:

### 'Watergate Hasn't Changed Much'

You can't get much farther from the ugliness and despair of Harlem than Southern France's St. Paul de Vence. The air is crystalline, the sky is brilliant azure and the stucco homes of the Provençaux are warm pastels. But though he has lived there for some time, black writer James Baldwin has really never left home. He is brimming with resentleft home. He is brimming with resentlement over American racial injustice. And against that background, the finale of Watergate did not change the mind of this native son. "To say that the Watergate episode shows that the system works' is just one more symptom of my countrymen's capacity for self-congratulation," he says.

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Baldwin emigrated to France in the 1940s to escape the personal humiliation of being a black in America. But he returned in the 1950s, when the civilrights movement began to stir, and in his memorable "The Fire Next Time," he prophesied an explosion of black frustration. After the murder of Martin Luther King Jr., Baldwin was too disturbed to stay in the U.S. and write. "I

Baldwin: Resentful and enraged Jerry Bauer



couldn't turn my back enough on all the things that were going on," he explains.

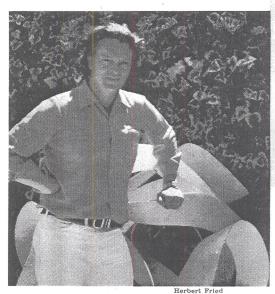
"There are things in America that oppress me, frighten me and enrage me," Baldwin continues. "And I don't think the Watergate episode has changed much at all. Watergate is a very typical adventure that happened to go haywire. So I'm not blaming Nixon. He's just one of the players in a very bad play." At best, Baldwin believes, "I suppose you could say that more people now have an understanding of the American delusion—of the fact that people do not live the way they say they do." But, he adds, it is more significant to him and other black Americans that in spite of what he has done, Richard Nixon is still a free man. "If he lived on my street in Harlem," Baldwin says bitterly, "Nixon would be in jail."

#### 'It Makes Me Very Proud'

Until recently, Charles Perry doubted that he would ever go home. A resident of Rome since he won an Italian art award in 1964, the architect-turned-sculptor often visited the U.S. to sell his monumental works of art. He didn't like what he found. "It just didn't feel good to be there," he said. "The economic, political and cultural structures were in bad shape." Perry was even more depressed by America's choice for President in 1968 and 1972. "I was aghast," he confessed. "They elected someone who was not merely a seller of used cars but a second-hand car himself."

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Now, however, the 44-year-old Yale-educated Perry has begun to change his views—at least about the system. "The fact that the House Judiciary Committee came through really meant a lot," he says. "It seemed to me to be a make-orbreak situation. Either they said 'this is a democratic society and you can't defile it in this way' or else they all would have gone down the drain." In the end, Perry observes, the committee dealt with Watergate "in an honorable and judicious way, which makes me very proud."



Perry: Thinking of coming home

As a result, Perry is thinking of moving back and letting his five children grow up the American way. He will not leave Rome, however, without regrets. "Life in Italy has a certain breadth and finesse that life in the U.S. just does not have," Perry remarks. But to Perry's mind, the comparison between the Watergate denouement and the political morass in today's Italy is an all-important factor. "The end of Watergate proved to me that we have a self-cleansing system," he says. "In Italy, the opposite is true. The bureaucracy keeps the government from functioning at all."

### 'I Learned a Lesson'

Herb Mayes, former editor of Mc-Call's, is high on America. "It is and always will be my native and favorite country," he says. As an admirer of British culture he retired to England in 1969. But Mayes has published a newsletter for Americans abroad and followed U.S. politics with keen interest. He sees the dethronement of Richard Nixon as an American tragedy. "It's one of the two saddest episodes in my long memory," the 74-year-old Mayes maintains. "The other was the assassination of President Kennedy."

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Mayes never was much of a Nixon fan. But, he admits, "I was one of the minority who believed Nixon when he said he knew nothing about the coverup. I kept hoping against hope that

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Mayes: Saddened and wiser

the man was telling the truth. And if he had been, I still believe that the Senate would not have convicted him." Gazing out at Hyde Park from his handsome London flat, Mayes admits that he was "decimated" by the President's admission that he had lied. And he was particularly shocked by the vulgarity of the President's conversations. "I'm not a prude limit I must see that what are made decimal." but I must say that what got me down was reading the language that came off those tapes," Mayes says. "How could that have happened in the Oval Office of the White House?"

Like many Americans in London, Mayes believes that the prolonged Watergate agony would not have occurred if the U.S., like Britain, had a leader who was directly answerable to Congress and could be deposed by his party or forced into elections. At the very least, Mayes now wants Congress to enact laws curtailing campaign spending. He is also hopeful that the people themselves will show more tuture. "I learned a lesson," he says somewhat mournfully, "and I hope others have learned the same."

## 'Nixon Must Be Prosecuted'

"I left Chicago with just \$200, a couple of dresses and a few musical scores, she says. And now cellist Frances Uitti earns her living in Rome. She departed for foreign shores three years ago be-cause of what she terms America's "mo-tiveless violence." As a musician, her late working hours exposed her to the dan-gers of the American night and she had several bad experiences. Whether in Boston, San Francisco or Santa Fe, the tall, striking young woman became terrified of returning home alone from concerts. And ultimately, she confesses, she developed "what amounted to paranoia

about who was going to get me."

Today Uitti lives in a tiny, sparsely furnished apartment near Rome's Spanish Steps. And though she makes only a fraction of the money she could earn back home, she is determined to stay. The prevalence of American crime, she maintains, is "typical of a sick society." In the cities of Europe, Uitti is confident she is safe. "It's a great relief to be some place where you can walk the streets at night," she observes. And she adds that "if you're followed in Rome, it's because they want to make love, not because they want to make love, not be-cause they want to kill you."

Despite her pessimism about Ameri-

can life, Uitti is cheered by the outcome of Watergate. "It has proved possible to take a megalomaniac like Nixon and virtually remove him from office," she says. But she also thinks that the President's resignation should be only the beginning. "If the system is to complete what it started, Nixon must be prosecuted," she remarks. Uitti also believes that ed," she remarks. Uitti also peneros the political process itself will require the future. "Waterclose scrutiny in the future. "Watergate," she believes, "is merely an example of one guy getting caught."

## 'It Doesn't Solve Anything'

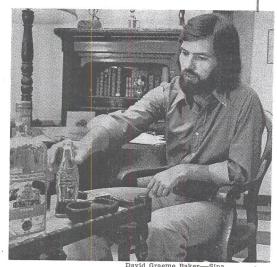
In February 1973, Vietnam war resister David Schwartz and two companions warmed themselves over mugs of coffee at a Paris café. "What's happen-



Uitti: Fearful no longer

ing with Watergate?" the bearded Schwartz asked a recent arrival from America. "Will Nixon ever resign?" Last week, the climax that Schwartz had hoped for was history. But instead of being elated, the 29-year-old American reported that he was "skeptical, if not cynical" about the U.S. political process.

He had been that way for quite a while. Before he emigrated to France in 1969, the tall, lanky Schwartz was caught up in the antiwar movement. He had conscientious-objector status, and he worked for a Lancaster, Pa., social



Schwartz: Skeptical if not cynical

agency. "But I was recruiting and encouraging other dissenters to leave for Canada and Sweden," he recalls with a grin. The reason for Schwartz's proselytizing was a profound disillusionment with antiwar protest. "We went to Washington so many times," he says, "to the Pentagon, to congressmen. What was the utility of it all? We got no results."

Now a student at the Sorbonne and a

spokesman for other Vietnam war dropouts in Europe, Schwartz is not sanguine about America in the aftermath of Nixon's departure. "I feel there is a Watergate illusion, an impression of change where there is none," he argues. "Chang-ing the person in the White House does not solve anything. The fundamental issues which concern America are not being dealt with." For Schwartz the fundamental issues are amnesty for Vietnam draft dodgers and deserters—and the continuing U.S. presence in Indochina. He also maintains that Watergate has not yet rung down the curtain on the imperial Presidency. For the time being, at least, he intends to stay where

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