

Editor — David Freeman's letter  
(History Will Judge, August 14)

Richard Nixon's resignation  
d on whether he should be tried  
r his crimes in a court of law is  
e most thoughtful and interest-  
g one I've read. He makes the  
int that "the prospect of forc-  
 forfeiture of the presidency" is  
fficient deterrent to future  
atergates. He suggests that Nix-  
's humiliation is enough punish-  
nt for the man.

I wonder. There has been noth-  
g in Richard Nixon's long, dis-  
norable career to suggest that  
e man has the capacity for hu-  
lity or understanding of the na-  
e of his humiliation. He showed  
ne of either in his resignation  
euch, which, as we all expected,  
s more a recitation of his ac-  
mplishments. It was a stunning  
euch: he showed no perception  
what he has done; it was more  
e some sort of bizarre victory  
euch. I'm convinced Richard  
xon truly believes that he will go

down in history as a very good  
President.

In point of fact he was the un-  
scrupulous mastermind of a crimi-  
nal conspiracy that damned near  
left the country in shambles. As  
the New Yorker Magazine put it a  
while back: he very nearly suc-  
ceeded in driving us all out of our  
minds. He was a crook. He had no  
sense of humor, he had no grace,  
no style, and worst of all, the man  
had no compassion.

He mercilessly dragged us  
through the mire. It has been a  
horrible trauma for all of us and  
it's an enormous relief to have him  
out of the way, but I still think the  
man should be punished for what  
he has done to us, and nobody has  
done worse to us than Richard  
Milhous Nixon. He wounded us  
deeply and almost made us lose  
faith.

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