

The writers of all those letters you thoughtfully published which were written by outraged readers who like to believe that The Post in particular and the news media in general are responsible for driving Richard M. Nixon from the presidency, should consider four lines which appear daily on the masthead of the Chicago Tribune:

"The newspaper is an institution developed by modern civilization to present the news of the day, to foster commerce and industry, to inform and lead public opinion, and to furnish that check upon government which no constitution has ever been able to provide."

No one—by any stretch of the imagination—can call the Chicago Tribune "eastern," much less eastern establishment, nor "liberal" much less a tool of the Democrat party. Yet its credo hits all the nails on their heads; and during the two years of the Watergate affair it was the press and almost the press alone that did provide "that check upon government which no constitution has ever been able to provide."

It was not until almost the eleventh hour that the Constitution began to catch up with the power running riot in the Oval Room. Meanwhile, it was the press that kept the investigators' noses to the grindstone.

The Chicago Tribune's "credo", in one form or another, deserves display on the masthead of every newspaper

in the land. It is the first corollary to the First Amendment.

R. K. SMITH.

Washington.

'Triumph Is America's'

I was surprised at the letters from your readers placing The Post as the final victors in the Nixon affair. As I see it, you people reported the situation to the public. The Post is a far cry from the victorious muck-racking vigilantes that many make you out to be. The true triumph is America's. It is a safe feeling knowing that the judicial system can, and will, prosecute those in high places. And thereby enforcing the democracy and protecting the people.

PAUL KARASIK.

Chevy Chase.

'Compassion'

It struck me, while reading your Letters to the Editor, that the very people who are now accusing The Washington Post of having "mercilessly" driven Mr. Nixon from office and who now call for "compassion" in the treatment of our fallen leader are probably the least compassionate and merciful people in our society. They are the ones who felt no compassion for the millions of innocent victims of our cruel

war in South Vietnam; who now can show no mercy for the men who left their country rather than fight in that unjust war. They are the ones who see no need to help the millions who are starving in Africa; who feel no compassion for the oppressed citizens of dictatorships throughout the world whose regimes we support by military aid.

And they are the ones most likely to demand the full penalties of the law for any "common" criminal—as long as he isn't an ex-President named Richard Nixon.

LINDA L. DIAZ.

Annandale.

Press 'Vindicated'

Realizing you have come under much criticism for the relentless role you played in the Watergate cover-up, I simply want to compliment you for the outstanding job you did. Where would we be today if "that group" had continued to roll unchecked — what would have been next?

Thank you for stubbornly sticking through the crisis. The allegations were all proved, which vindicates the free press. Had there been no guilt, you and others would have been wiped out by law suits long ago!

BEN A. SPALDING.

Reston, Va.