

'Courtesy' Call to Mr. Nixon

To the Editor:

I was struck dumb when I read that President Ford and candidate for Vice President Rockefeller talked to ex-President Nixon on the phone seeking his approval and blessing on the appointment. One would think that Mr. Nixon is an honored and honorable statesman, now in retirement, instead of the self-admitted malefactor that he is.

My alarm is based not on the fact that, at its minimum, this "courtesy" call to the dishonored ex-President is in bad taste, but on its deeper significance on the moral side. Must we conclude that just as Mr. Nixon himself does not think he did anything wrong, in spite of his own admission of malfeasance, so also our new President and the incoming Vice President think he has done nothing wrong but is the unfortunate victim of bad luck? It seems to me that the nation has the right to expect that an ex-President who has obstructed justice, used his power to subvert the course of government, defied the needs of the impeachment process, should not be honored by his successors in office, in any way shape or form.

The rationalization that President Ford did what he did to bring all factions together evades the moral issue. I have no desire to wreak revenge on Mr. Nixon, but I do want the country to learn something from the travail of Watergate. President Ford's "courtesy" call goes in the opposite direction.

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