

April 30, 1973, in a televised address to the nation:

. . For the fact that alleged improper actions took place within the White House or within my campaign organization, the easiest course would. be for me to blame those to whom I delegated the responsibility to run the campaign. But that would be a cowardly thing to do.

. . . In any organization, the man at the top must bear the responsi-bility. That responsibility, therefore, belongs here, in this office. I accept it.

May 22, 1973 statement on Watergate and national security matters:

. Because of the emphasis I put on the crucial importance of protect-ing the national security [at the time of the Ellsberg investigation], I can understand how highly motivated individuals could have felt justified in engaging in specific actions that I would have disapproved had they been brought to my attention.

Consequently, as President, I must and do assume responsibility for such actions despite the fact that I, at no time approved or had knowledge of them..

. . . With hindsight, it is apparent that I should have given more heed to the warning signals I received along the way about a Watergate cover-up and less to the reassurances

November 17, 1973, during a question-and-answer session with the Associated Press Managing Managing Editors at Disney World:

.. [In 1972] I didn't run the campaign. People around me didn't bring things to me that they probably should have, because I was frankly just too busy trying to do the nation's business . . . I say if mistakes are made, however, I am not blaming the people down below. The man at the top has to take the heat for all of them.

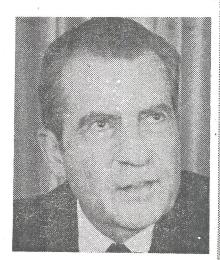
. Neither party was without fault in the campaign of 1972.

April 29, 1974, when releasing the White House version of the transcripts:

From the beginning, I have said that in many places on the tapes there were ambiguities-statements and comment that different people with different perspectives might interpret in drastically different ways. But al-though the words may be ambiguous —though the discussions may have explored many alternatives the record of my actions is totally clear now and I still believe it was totally correct then.

August 5, 1974, when releasing the June 23, 1972, transcripts:

... Although I recognized [in May] that these [transaction] that these [transcripts] presented problems, I did not inform my staff or my counsel of it, or those arguing



my case, nor did I amend my sub-mission to the Judiciary Committee in order to include and reflect it.

... This was a serious act of omis-sion for which I take full responsi-bility and which I deeply regret.

... The June 23 tapes clearly show . . . that at the time I gave those instructions [to limit the FBI investigation to avoid exposing national security matters] I also discussed the political aspects of the situation, and that I was aware of the advantages this course of action would have with respect to limiting possible public exposure of involvement by persons connected with the re-election committee

August 8, 1974, when announcing his decision to resign from office: . . . I regret deeply any injuries that may have been done in the course of events that led to this decision. I would say only that if some of my indements work works. some of my judgments were wrong, and some were wrong, they were made in what I believed at the time to be the best interest of the nation.

September 8, 1974, in accepting the pardon granted by President Ford:

Looking back on what is still in my mind a complex and confusing maze of events, decisions, pressures and be events, decisions, pressures and personalities, one thing I can see clearly now is that I was wrong in not acting more decisively and forth-rightly in dealing with Watergate, particularly when it reached the stage of judicial proceedings and grew and grew from a political scandal into a national tragedy.

.. I know many fair-minded people believe that my motivations and actions in the Watergate affair were intentionally self-serving and illegal. now understand T how my own mistakes and misjudgments have contributed to that belief and seemed to support it. .

That the way I tried to deal with Watergate was the wrong way is a burden I shall bear for every day of the life that is left to me.