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Her Colors Are Struck In Protest

Somerset,
El Dorado county

Gray-haired Betty Yohalem started crying when she went outside to raise her American flag the morning after President Ford pardoned Richard Nixon.

She found she didn't have the heart to fly the flag over her Sierra foothills home any longer. So she mailed the flag to President Ford along with a letter explaining her anger.

The 73-year-old woman wrote to Mr. Ford:

"I as usual went to raise the flag. But sir, I could not. Something inside me would not let me raise my flag. I just stood there and cried."

Mrs. Yohalem, who described herself to Mr. Ford as a good citizen who helped sell more than \$3 million in war bonds and stamps during World War II, said her flag had once flown over the nation's capitol.

Her local congressman, Representative Harold T. Johnson, had sent her the flag, which she said she had raised each morning "with pride . . . Now that I know I can no longer raise that flag, sir, I am returning it to you."

In the letter made public yesterday, she concluded: "When I am assured that no man is above the laws of our land, perhaps I can bring myself to return to the pride I held for my government and once again fly my flag."

Mrs. Yohalem added that she also planned to stop paying her taxes because, as small as they are, she doesn't want them to help pay "a man who has" brought this disgrace on us.

"I realize in doing so I am breaking a law," she wrote. "When the time comes for me to be brought to justice, I hope you will find it in your heart to be as compassionate to me as you have been to him (Nixon)."

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