

Further Views on the Nixon Pardon

Editor — With the pardon of Richard Nixon we learn all we ever wanted to know about equality before the law, and were afraid to ask.

AL UJCIC,

San Francisco.

Editor — Someday I'm going to have to explain to my great-grandchildren that once upon a time there was a President who was so busy he really didn't have time to be good and there was a President who pardoned the bad President because he was not so busy but he was really good.

What if the kids won't buy great-grandma's foxy, old story?

ULLA PIRONI,

Belmont.

Editor — I thought that Mr. Ford's administration would bring a new and much needed era of openness and honesty. Unfortunately, his actions have served only to counteract this hope in my mind. Mr. Ford's pardoning Mr. Nixon, even before he has pleaded guilty to any charge, and his consideration of pardoning the other Watergate criminals is a crime in itself.

I believe that Mr. Ford is guilty of obstructing justice and not only is the honeymoon over, but I want a divorce.

JUDY CURTIS,

San Francisco.

Editor — Gerald Ford's pardon of Richard Nixon seems neither "courageous" nor "strangely timed." On the contrary, it was clearly designed to insure Mr. Ford's election in 1976. Had the pardon been delayed until after Mr. Nixon and his accomplices had been through the courts, the full story of Mr. Nixon's income tax violations, his misuse of gov-

ernment agencies and his attempts at bribery and obstruction of justice would have been in the news dangerously close to the 1976 elections. The timing of the pardon probably hurt the chances of a few Republican congressmen this November, but this is a small price to pay for making Watergate a dead issue two years from now. In effect, the pardon, coming before indictment or trial, only replaces an illegal coverup with a legal one. It's clear that Mr. Ford, who once said he wouldn't seek election in 1976, is now off and running.

RACHELLE MARSHALL,
Stanford.

Editor — . . . While dozens of careers of men who worked for Mr. Nixon lie in ruins, the man who directed them is exonerated of all wrongdoing. This action by the President would be understandable if Mr. Nixon had in some way acknowledged his guilt, but under the present circumstances this is a terrible miscarriage of justice.

EMIL J. ZUGNONI,

Albany.

Editor — Richard Nixon believed he was above the laws that apply to the rest of us. And he was right.

DONALDINE ELLINGTON,
Woodside.

Editor — President Ford's pardon of Richard Nixon applies to past but not future crimes, such as perjury in testifying at pending trials. The only way to keep Mr. Nixon from committing perjury is to keep him from testifying under oath. Therefore, watch for Mr. Ford's next move: either prevention of Mr. Nixon's being subpoenaed by anyone, or complete elimination of the necessity by

pardoning all Watergate personnel now awaiting trial . . .

E. S. MEEKS,

San Francisco.

Editor — I hope everyone who is called for jury duty will respond as follows:

"I will be glad to serve, but I tell you in advance that since the defendant is frightened, unhappy and depressed, I will find in his favor no matter what he may or may not have done."

MARY T. HOFFMAN,
Mill Valley.

Editor — . . . The people have waited patiently for two years for the crimes of Watergate to be prosecuted according to the law. That law has now failed them, and the government of the United States is in the hands of criminals who persist in covering up their crimes. The failure of the Constitution leaves the people no choice but to resort to violence, as our forefathers did 200 years ago, to restore constitutional government to the United States.

MERRITT RUHLEN,

Stanford.

Editor — . . . The cruelest blow of all is that President Ford turns out to be just another self-serving politician out to manipulate the public into believing that removal from high office due to one's corruption of that office constitutes enough suffering . . . So we'll go on, paying Mr. Nixon dearly to live like a king, while the crooks he dealt with in various industries continue on their ways — robbing us too. And the politicians will go on wheeling and dealing with the lobbyists while mouthing platitudes of honor and justice . . .

DAVE REYNOLDS,
San Luis Obispo.