

NYTimes NOV 23 1974

Watergate 'Overkill'

To the Editor:

Years ago I watched a drunken guide shoot a raccoon that was stealing fish. In the process he also shot his boat. It sank to the bottom.

The selective crucifixion of Richard M. Nixon may have the same result. In their frenzy to destroy a relatively conservative President, the liberals may also have sunk this nation.

One cannot fault any orthodox liberal for hating Nixon. He had welded an amazing "New Majority" that defeated the old Franklin D. Roosevelt combine. One must admire the cohesive liberal campaign that finally mesmerized the mob and convicted

the whole White House of a minor, victimless crime.

But the global fallout from Watergate is something else. Today this nation crawls dispiritedly toward its 200th birthday racked by a crisis of confidence. Our worldwide prestige has been shattered; our faith in ourselves seems gone.

The stock market has recently lost more than \$300 billion, including billions of liberal dollars. And, as we face a gloomy future, one hears talk of "depression" on every side. The long light of history may well reveal that the massive Watergate overkill cost far more than a persecuted President.

WALT SEIFERT
Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 14, 1974