

NYTimes JAN 9 1976
For a Watergate Pardon

To the Editor:

Your paper recently issued a new call for amnesty [editorial Dec. 28]. And Ambassador Moynihan recently made a plea for release of political prisoners. In that spirit, America should grant full amnesty and pardon to the political prisoners of Watergate — Mitchell, Haldeman, Ehrlichman, Dean, the Cubans and all the other victims of the Congressional coup of 1973-1974.

Their deeds or misdeeds were motivated by their conception of defending their country. Pardon should also go to the contributors to our parties and candidates, whether corporate or individual, who ran afoul of the unreasonable legal restraints on political expression.

Such a pardon would start the year of independence in the spirit of forgiveness—the spirit of Abraham Lincoln. Lesser countries than our own have learned that clemency to a conquered foe is responsible magnanimity.

PAUL K. STEWART

Portland, Me., Dec. 29, 1975