

Nixon's punishment needed?

If the only purpose of prosecuting Richard Nixon were to punish him for his acts and to deter future presidents from following his example, prosecution might be unnecessary.

No incarceration is needed to stress that a president should not obstruct justice. Nor is a term in a federal penitentiary likely to further Nixon's rehabilitation.

Other concerns, however, do justify the investigation and criminal prosecution of Nixon by Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski.

One concern is the ambiguous historical record Nixon is leaving behind. Will his guilt or innocence of participation in the Watergate cover-up remain a debated issue forever?

In his resignation speech, Nixon did not admit any guilt in the Watergate affair. Instead, he emphasized the "erosion" of the "political base" that frustrated his efforts at personal "vindication."

If Nixon wants personal vindication, he can have it in a full-scale criminal investigation. The verdict of a jury or a defendant's guilty plea to a formal charge would be more convincing historical evidence than the mass of material collected by the House Judiciary Committee.

Another important concern is to complete the Watergate investigations, begun by the Ervin committee and continued by Jaworski and the House Judiciary Committee. Too many unanswered questions still remain—several of which depend upon assessing the former president's role in the affair.

Jaworski could be forced to decide soon whether to prosecute Nixon. The cover-up trial is to begin Sept. 9.

When the Watergate grand jury handed up its indictment of Ehrlichman and the five other Nixon aides, Jaworski reportedly dissuaded them from indicting Nixon. The special prosecutor thought indictment of an incumbent president might be unconstitutional. If that grand jury now votes to indict Nixon, only Jaworski's signature can make the indictment valid.

The former President risks indictment on several federal charges, including obstruction of justice, subornation of perjury, misprision of a felony and income-tax fraud.

According to some legal experts, if Nixon is not indicted and appears as a witness at the trial, he could confess on the witness stand to criminal activity. Depending on the conditions under which such a confession is given, Jaworski then might be barred from indicting Nixon.

Many Nixon subordinates already have pleaded guilty and gone to jail. Others await trial or sentencing for acts they allegedly committed on behalf of their chief. If Nixon is not prosecuted, the trial of the six cover-up defendants will be grossly unfair. The actions of the six, according to White House tapes, were approved or condoned by Nixon himself.

Why should those who acted on Nixon's instructions, expressed or implied, be convicted and jailed while their leader collects a \$60,000 yearly pension?

Jane Owens

Operation needed to bind up nation's wounds

Following a series of emergency operations "to bind up the Nation's wounds," the patient was reported resting comfortably last week.

The Nation, 198-years-old, was found dazed and bleeding from internal injuries in a gutter outside the Watergate, apparently a hit-run victim.

Most witnesses said she had been struck down by a powerful, recklessly driven White House limousine. A few blamed a screeching press car. All agreed, however, that she had been heading downhill at the time, although none could say for sure where she had been going.

The patient was sped to The National Wound Binding Center. There, physicians immediately lanced a huge boil of corruption centered in the Oval Office. They said the boil had created an infection of disillusionment that had been spreading through the body and might have proved fatal.

A recent medical bulletin reported that the boil was now "draining nicely" and the infection "appeared curbed."

"That was the dramatic turning point," said the Center's Chief Wound Binder Upper, Dr. Homer T. Pettibone, D.V.M. He warned, however, that the Nation was "far from out of danger."

He said a preliminary examination showed the patient was suffering from a long list of other ills—the most worrisome being an inflationary edema which easily could lead to fits of depression.

He said the only sure cure was a strict diet, but it was doubtful the Nation could stick to it. Despite the seriousness of the case, only a few tranquilizers had been prescribed so far.

arthur hoppe innocent bystander

He said this condition was being worsened by the patient's grave lack of energy, testified to by gas pains, blackouts and other symptoms. The Nation also had a chronic lung condition and had difficulty breathing. Although the Nation had agreed to taper off smoking, she kept back-sliding, and efforts to persuade her to quit cold turkey had been futile, he said.

An amnesty salve now was being tested on the irritation caused by the patient's long siege of Vietnamitis. But, he said, it was too early to tell whether the salve would cure or inflame the condition.

The Nation also was suffering from psychosomatic ulcers which erupted every time she saw white and black children on the same bus.

"Basically, all we've done so far," he said, "is to lance the boil, remove the bugs and bind up the most obvious wounds." He identified the physician in charge of the case as Dr. Marcus Ford.

Asked if Ford was experienced in the field, he replied, "Well, no, but he's got what it takes in cases like this—a great bedside manner."

Unfortunately, he said, the patient was accident prone. "We are called upon to bind up her wounds here at the center," he said, "everytime she gets a new President."

The Center's procedures were just the opposite of those in ordinary surgical practice, he said.

"Even though the operation is never a complete success," he explained, "the patient always survives."

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"Welcome aboard, Rocky. Rocky?"

to the editor

Dear editor,

Regarding the placement of Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) members in a dorm, I suggest that Nelson Potter review the minutes of the regents' meetings last spring. The board passed several parts of a proposal organized by the Differentiated Housing Task Force, ASUN and RHA (Residence Halls Association).

One of the parts discussed and passed by the regents dealt with allowing specific interest groups, such as stereo freaks, art lovers and engineering students to live in certain areas of the dorms. I do not know how well organized the Housing Office is in setting up these areas, but allowing a special interest group—TKE definitely is one—to live in a dorm is a good step forward in compliance with last spring's decisions.

I am an independent and do not regard the TKE's, or any Greeks, as a cancerous growth that will destroy the minds of others by living in close "proximity...to their (Centennial students') work areas." I also suggest Mr. Potter let the issue pass to avoid any more antagonisms with his neighbors.

Mike Whye