

Editorial

Ten years after Watergate

Congratulatory ink has spilled liberally over the forced resignation of President Richard Nixon 10 years ago this month. After the national disgrace of Watergate (so goes the gospel according to the news media) the welcome departure of Nixon proved that "the system works." America embarked upon a period of reform, renewal, a renaissance of public morality.

Putting aside, for only a moment, that the Watergate scandal was a put-up job, let's look at what's happened to the United States in the 10 years since Nixon resigned.

First, U.S. political institutions have become as corrupt as any since ancient Rome.

The 1976 presidential election two years after Nixon's resignation saw Jimmy Carter installed in the White House with the aid of massive vote fraud that Republican Party leaders, knowing of the fraud, declined to contest. More recently, attorneys for Democratic National Committee chairman Charles Manatt successfully argued in court that the Democratic Party, which received on July 26 over \$40 million in public funds for its presidential campaign under the Federal Election Commission set up in the post-Watergate era, is a private club that can exclude any presidential candidate on its chairman's whim.

Second, the crime of usury has been institutionalized as the official economic policy of the United States.

In 1979, with the appointment of Paul Volcker as chairman of the Federal Reserve Board by President Carter, the United States began a practice of charging 10% or more to even prime rate banking customers, while tax laws, financial regulation, and social policy were further modified to promote the growth of ground-rent speculation and the "services sector," at the expense of productive industry, agriculture, and basic infrastructure.

Third, it has become the U.S. "cultural norm" that the goal of individual human life ought to be the pursuit of sensual pleasure, no matter how vile.

It was during the 1970s, after Watergate, that the drug culture spread from a phenomenon largely contained in minority, youth, and entertainment milieux to

a general adult pastime. More shocking still, the kidnapping of children for use in illicit sexual activities has become a practice so widespread that 20,000 children a year simply "disappear" from view. The vast majority seems persuaded that decisive interference with this "anything goes" outlook is impermissible.

So much for the post-Watergate Moral Renaissance.

The original crime of Watergate was, of course, not Richard Nixon's, but Henry Kissinger's. It was Kissinger who instigated the wiretapping and dirty tricks that eventually produced the plumbers' unit—on such pretexts as the lurid fantasy that journalist Marvin Kalb (a Kissinger biographer) was a Romanian agent! This same Kissinger, remember, played both the Nixon and Humphrey cards in the 1968 presidential race, and is currently up to his eyeballs running the apparatus behind Mondale, while posing as a "friend of President Reagan."

The whole cast of characters that eventually drove Nixon from office was a who's who of the U.S. Eastern Establishment. Their purpose was summarily indicated by Clark Clifford in his 1973 newspaper column—the shattering of the presidency and the remolding of U.S. political institutions around the theme of a "national unity" government committed to enforcing lowered consumption for Americans and a reduced U.S. profile abroad.

It is hardly accidental that the political corruption, drugs, sodomy, loan sharking, and shady business dealings identified above as pervasive in American society today are indelibly linked to the person of Kissinger—and that Kissinger is portrayed in media across the American political spectrum at this moment as "the indispensable man" to the next President of the United States, whoever he may be.

Perhaps Nixon's resignation will go down in history as only a small footnote in an unhappy period before the United States recovered its republican heritage. If so, it will only be because the American people finally rid themselves of the man they have repeatedly permitted to function as "Acting President" ever since, Henry Kissinger.