

*Watergate eds
140
plus a amnesty letter*

[REDACTED]
Somers Pt, N. J. 08240
August 15, 1974

Senator Clifford P. Case
315 Old Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Case:

I wish to congratulate you on your successful effort to keep NAFEC in South Jersey. The base is essential to the economy of this area at the present time. All those who helped to keep it here are to be commended.

There is one other thing on my mind at the moment: the proposal of Chesterfield Smith, President of the American Bar Assn. that Ex-president Richard M. Nixon be given amnesty in exchange for total amnesty for all draft resisters of the Viet Nam era. I am 100% in favor of it. I feel that it would dishonor our country both at home and abroad to prolong the Watergate scandal and perhaps to place a former president behind bars. By the same token, if Ex-president Nixon is to be forgiven (which is what amnesty means), then surely this great country can extend the same forgiveness to the thousands of youths who fled abroad rather than participate in a war which was to them unconscionable. The United States would stand to gain by having these men come home again. Most of them are moral, up-right, and well-educated beings, individuals who had the courage to act rather than to be herded like cattle to foreign battle fields.

The United States made a mistake in getting involved in Viet Nan. Ex-president Nixon has made his share of mistakes. Let us attempt to "bring us together" by forgiving both elements of our society and, with God's help, start again with a clean slate.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]

COPY

GJ

September 6, 1974

[REDACTED]
Somers Point, N. J. 08240

Dear [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your letter.

As I am sure you are aware, the House of Representatives has now accepted the report of the Judiciary Committee on impeachment of Richard Nixon and concluded its inquiry.

The matter of immunity or prosecution of Mr. Nixon, is one in which Congress has no direct authority to act. Beyond that, it does not seem appropriate to me at this time to consider a blanket grant of immunity and I oppose it both as a matter of principle and of substance. The Special Prosecutor, who has full authority in the Watergate case, is reviewing the whole matter. Meanwhile a subpoena has been issued to compel Mr. Nixon's appearance in the trial of his aides scheduled to begin in early fall.

As to your comments concerning the question of amnesty, I am sure you were glad to note, as I was, President Ford's statement that he favored limited amnesty. The Attorney General and the Secretary of Defense are currently preparing recommendations for dealing with the different kinds of cases involved and I believe we can look forward to early action on them.

Sincerely,

Clifford P. Case
U. S. Senator

CPC:fhj