

The Watergate Syndrome

George Washington, in his Farewell Address to the nation, counseled: "I hold the maxim no less applicable to public than to private affairs that *honesty is always the best policy.*"

But, apparently, many modern Americans either don't agree with Washington — or else they have turned a deaf ear to his wise counsel.

At all levels of government, as well as in business and industry, chicanery, corruption and outright dishonesty sometimes seem to be the common rule — rather than the exception.

Corruption in Government

All too often, the news media reports additional instances of bribery, corruption or misconduct by the elected or appointed officials of the Federal, state or local governments. A recent instance of a bad example set by an elected official was that of the Vice President of the United States under President Nixon.

Vice President Spiro T. Agnew had campaigned during his 1968 vice presidential campaign on a tough "law-and-order" platform. And as Vice President, he bitterly attacked opponents of the war in Vietnam. They were accused of being disloyal to America. Agnew also criticized intellectuals and college students for questioning and attacking traditional values. He frequently charged the news media of biased news coverage.

With such professed *morality*, the American people were deeply shocked to learn of the forced resignation of the Vice President on October 10, 1973.

But, why did Vice President Agnew resign?

A Justice Department investigation uncovered clear evidence of corruption during his years in Maryland politics. (Spiro T. Agnew had been Governor of Maryland before being chosen as Vice President.) But it was not just past misdeeds which forced his resignation. It was his alleged acceptance of bribes which overlapped with his tenure as Vice President that proved so damaging to him. Spiro Agnew also pleaded no contest to the charge of Federal income tax evasion. For those misdeeds, Agnew was fined \$10,000 and sentenced to three years' probation by the Maryland court of appeals.

This forced resignation of Richard Nixon's Vice President began to shake the confidence of the American people in the Nixon administration. But more damaging scandals were yet to be uncovered — scandals which would shock the whole nation, and would also eventually result in the forced resignation of the President himself.

Soon after Mr. Nixon's reelection in 1972, his popularity plummeted alarmingly.

Widespread public criticism began to be voiced concerning the large amount of government money spent on President Nixon's private residences.

Mr. Nixon's troubles were just beginning. Further public suspicion and dissatisfaction surfaced when the Internal Revenue Service discovered that President Nixon's donation of his presidential papers to the Federal government (which had been used as a deduction on his Federal income tax returns) were made *after* a law went into effect disallowing such deductions.

These revelations, plus mushrooming reports concerning the Watergate scandal, caused many public officials and private citizens to begin questioning Nixon's fitness to remain in the high office of Chief Executive of the United States. Hints of *impeachment* were even beginning to surface.

What Led up to Watergate

Most Americans still don't fully realize what it was that led the Nixon Administration to become so deeply mired in the sordid Watergate affair.

What was the national climate which gave rise to Watergate? What led so many high Government officials into a mentality which resulted in the Watergate break-in, bugging and subsequent coverup?

The excesses committed by high Government officials which led to Watergate were at least in part evoked (if not provoked) by extremist groups in the U.S. which threatened to tear America apart in the 60s. Those extremist groups could have brought about the destruction of the nation — had something not been done to counter them.

President Nixon, in his mid-August 1974 address to the nation, spoke of the reasoning of extremists who placed themselves above the law. He said: "It became fashionable in the 1960s, as individuals and groups increasingly asserted the right to take the law into their own hands, insisting that their purposes represented a higher morality."

Mr. Nixon also pointed out that at that time those who wanted to operate "within the law" and who insisted on the "old restraints" were maligned and accused of being "reactionaries."

Then the President warned the nation just where such a permissive,

anti-establishment attitude was taking it. "That same attitude," said the President, "brought a rising spiral of violence and fear, of riots and arson and bombings, all in the name of peace and in the name of justice Serious people raised serious questions about whether we could survive as a free democracy."

Furthermore, vital national-security leaks began to occur — thereby further imperiling the nation. Mr. Nixon mentioned his "efforts to stop massive leaks of vital diplomatic and military secrets." According to the President, it was in the midst of this climate of fear, violence, arson, bombings, riots and serious security leaks that certain Government officials decided upon a policy of taking extreme measures to combat this grave threat to the nation.

If you will think back to the 60s, you will remember that race riots, bombings, and general student unrest on college campuses all across the nation were common occurrences.

It was then that the Government decided to use the FBI, the CIA and other Government agencies to gain as much intelligence as possible on those subversive elements. And undoubtedly it became Government policy to infiltrate divisive or subversive organizations in order to know what they were up to.

Looking back to that time, it is easy to see how a few overzealous officials and agents, using more zeal than wisdom, went beyond the bounds of legality in order to achieve what they believed would be for the "ultimate good of the nation."

It was easy for certain officials to take the next step of using the FBI and other Government agencies to spy on their political opponents. This was clearly wrong.

The entire Watergate affair was one of the most sordid scandals to rock this nation since America became independent 200 years ago. How did the President of the United States become involved in the Watergate "mess"?

The Watergate Break-in

During President Nixon's re-election campaign, he appears to have decided it best to devote his time and energies to matters of government, and let others look after the re-election campaign. But before long, matters would get out of hand.

On June 17, 1972, police apprehended five men, including James McCord, who had broken into the Democratic party offices of the Watergate apartment complex in Washington, D.C., and were attempting to set up wiretap devices. Along with two other accomplices, they were tried and convicted in January 1973.

The convicted break-in participants were all either directly or in-

directly employed by President's Nixon's re-election committee. Early during the Watergate revelations, many persons, including the trial judge, John J. Sirica, had suspected a *conspiracy* involving high Government officials.

In March 1973, James McCord (one of the five convicted burglars) wrote a revealing letter to Judge Sirica in which he charged there was a *massive coverup* of the burglary. It was McCord's letter which transformed the Watergate affair into a political scandal of unprecedented magnitude.

Just how many were involved in the conspiracy? Were members of Nixon's administration involved? Was even the President himself implicated? These and other questions troubled many Americans as they sought to get to the bottom of the whole affair.

Not long after the Watergate break-in, President Nixon sought to clear himself of any suspicion. On May 22, 1973, he solemnly declared: "I can and do state categorically: I had no prior knowledge of the Watergate operation. I took no part in, nor was I aware of, any subsequent efforts that may have been made to cover up Watergate. At no time did I authorize any offer of executive clemency for the Watergate defendants, nor did I know of any such offer. I did not know, until the time of my own investigation, of any effort to provide the Watergate defendants with funds."

No scandal in America's long, proud history had ever so rocked the nation. Dr. Henry Kissinger called Watergate "a national emergency." President Nixon said that as a result of Watergate, "Confidence at home and abroad in our economy, our currency, our foreign policy, is being sapped." And he referred to America's "continued, backward-looking obsession with Watergate."

It soon became clear to top Congressmen that the whole Watergate affair would have to be investigated at the highest level. Accordingly, a special Senate committee, under the headship of Senator Sam Ervin, was established for the express purpose of investigating corrupt campaign practices.

When this special Senate investigating committee began its nationally televised hearings into the Watergate affair, John Dean (former White House counsel) testified that the Watergate burglary had been approved by U.S. Attorney General, John Mitchell, with the knowledge of top White House advisers, John Ehrlichman and H.R. (Bob) Halde- man. John Dean also accused Nixon of knowing about and approving of the coverup. These shocking revelations resulted in the removal of several top administration officials from their high offices.

This key, but controversial, witness, John Dean III, referred to the Watergate operation and its subsequent coverup as "a cancer growing on the presidency."

During the Senate Watergate hearings, Chairman Sam Ervin spoke out against those who would "pollute justice." He said that sort of situation was enough "to make justice weep."

His ire obviously raised, he boomed out in the Senate hearings:

The evicence thus far introduced or presented before this committee tends to show that men upon whom fortune smiled benevolently and who possessed great financial power, great political power and great governmental power *undertook to nullify the laws of man and the laws of God* for the purpose of gaining what history will call a very temporary political advantage.

The evidence also indicates that . . . the efforts to nullify the laws of man might have succeeded, if it had not been for a courageous federal judge, Judge Sirica, and a very untiring set of investigative reporters.

"I think that those who participated in *this effort to nullify the laws of man and the laws of God* overlooked one of the laws of God which is set forth in the seventh verse of the sixth chapter of Galatians: "Be not deceived, God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

I was in Washington, D.C., during the Senate Watergate hearings in the summer of 1973 and wrote the following report:

Here in Washington, as in much of the rest of the nation and the world, the main topic of conversation for many months has been the Watergate scandal. Never in the history of the U.S. has this nation been so deeply mired in a scandal of such proportions.

Sitting here in the Senate caucus room, watching key witnesses, makes Watergate much more meaningful. Somehow, you get a far better grasp of the historical importance of these Senate Watergate hearings when you are right here watching these men testify in the flesh . . .

The new Attorney General, Elliot Richardson, in May 1973 appointed a special prosecutor, Archibald Cox, to look thoroughly into the whole sordid affair. Cox and his dedicated staff soon began to uncover widespread evidence of political espionage by the Nixon re-election committee. And they also uncovered corporate contributions to the Republican party in return for political favors. Furthermore, they uncovered facts which revealed that there had been illegal wiretapping of citizens by the Nixon administration. This was dynamite!

The Nixon Tapes

During the Senate investigating committee's hearings in July 1973, it was revealed that President Nixon had tape recorded all his presidential conversations since 1971. This meant that there was bound to be taped evidence either to clear the President, or to show that he knew about the coverup, and was therefore guilty of obstruction of justice.

The special prosecutor, Archibald Cox, sued Mr. Nixon to obtain the tapes. Nixon responded by firing him in October 1973. But this only compounded the President's problems concerning Watergate. Many Americans were now convinced that Mr. Nixon's precipitous and autocratic action in firing Cox was both unjust and politically unwise. Demands from government officials, the press, and private citizens that Nixon be impeached grew louder and louder. These outcries for impeachment led the House of Representatives to empower its Judiciary Committee to initiate an actual impeachment investigation.

President Nixon then appointed Leon Jaworski as the new special prosecutor, and at the same time decided to release the tapes of the Watergate conversations which had been previously subpoenaed by Cox.

At this point, President Nixon (who had stoutly *denied* early knowledge about the coverup) gave the Judiciary Committee edited transcripts of his taped conversations relating to Watergate. Even so, the President's actions failed to satisfy the American people that the truth had really been told. A steady erosion of confidence in the Nixon administration continued. Few believed that Mr. Nixon had authorized the Watergate burglary, but numerous mid-1974 polls indicated that a majority of the American people believed the President had been involved in the Watergate coverup.

President Lincoln's statement regarding the American people was being proven true: "You can fool some of the people all of the time; and all of the people some of the time; but you can't fool all of the people all of the time."

On July 24, 1974, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered Mr. Nixon to turn over to special prosecutor Leon Jaworski all additional subpoenaed tapes related to the coverup.

Ready to Impeach

During the Watergate affair, many Americans asked themselves why it was that President Nixon was so reluctant to release the tapes — if he were in fact innocent. Later, it was revealed that Mr. Nixon had refused to hand over certain tapes because they contained sensitive material which would show that he was guilty after all. The President refused to give up the sensitive tapes, claiming "executive privilege" — stating that the confidentiality of executive communications might be seriously endangered. The Supreme Court (July 24, 1974), however, ordered President Nixon to surrender the vital tapes to Leon Jaworski.

In the meantime, the House Judiciary Committee had already completed its extensive investigations. Subsequently, it recommended (on July 27-30) three articles of *impeachment* against President Nixon. Those three articles charged the President with: 1) *obstruction of justice*

in the investigation of the break-in at the Democratic national headquarters in the Watergate Apartment complex; 2) *abuse of Presidential powers* through misuse of the Internal Revenue Service for political purposes, illegal wiretapping, establishment of a private investigative group that engaged in unlawful activities, and interference with lawful activities of the FBI, the CIA, the Department of Justice, and other government bodies; 3) and *failure to comply with subpoenas* issued by the House Judiciary Committee.

On August 5th, Nixon made public the transcripts of three damning taped conversations which were among those to be given to Leon Jaworski. By now, the President realized he could no longer cover up his part in the coverup. *Mr. Nixon rather belatedly admitted that he had in fact become aware of the Watergate coverup only six days after the actual break-in.* He also admitted he had tried to halt the FBI's investigation into the Watergate break-in.

Public opinion polls at that time revealed that the American people were deeply disillusioned, and somewhat embittered by the President's failure to tell the truth about the coverup; and they were also disappointed at the way he had handled the whole sordid affair. Nixon's popularity had plummeted to an alarmingly low level. How could a totally discredited President continue in his office with any effectiveness?

All indications, according to the news media, were that if Mr. Nixon had "come clean" right from the beginning, and had candidly told the American people that he learned about the break-in shortly after it occurred, they would have soon forgotten the whole thing.

A Disgraced President Resigns

Realizing he was guilty — and knowing full well that the whole Watergate affair had weakened America, and being fully cognizant that if the Senate were to vote on his impeachment, it might well muster the two thirds votes necessary, Mr. Nixon took the painful decision to resign his high office.

A disillusioned, but somewhat saddened nation watched via nationwide TV as the broken and bitter President announced his resignation on August 9, 1974.

Surely, few loyal Americans got any real pleasure in seeing their harassed, haggard, and humiliated President resign from the highest political office on earth. It was certainly a sad day for the nation.

Even though most Americans had come to believe that the President should step down, few felt like condemning the man. There is certainly no evidence that he had any part in the planning of the burglary — and he doesn't appear in any way to have authorized it.

But once he learned about it, he undoubtedly yielded to the temptation to take part in the coverup — fearing that to make the knowledge public would seriously damage him and his administration.

“The Final Days”

President Nixon's downfall from the highest office on earth was a truly pathetic spectacle. During the last months of the Watergate ordeal, it was clear that the President was tired, saddened, somewhat embittered. He appeared to have aged noticeably.

Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, authors of *All the President's Men* and *The Final Days*, vividly describe President Nixon's final days as President. According to their deeply-researched account of Nixon's last days at the White House, the President was a pathetic example of a broken man. His White House staff were also embittered by the whole episode.

Bernstein and Woodward relate that Nixon's Chief of Staff Alexander Haig quoted the President as follows: “You fellows in your business [the Army], you have a way of handling problems like this. Somebody leaves a pistol in the drawer. I don't have a pistol.”

After the President had made that statement, Haig gave orders that Mr. Nixon was not to be allowed any pills, fearing he might take an overdose.

The authors of *The Final Days* also quote David Eisenhower as being quite worried about the President — fearing that he might commit suicide. According to them, David Eisenhower had seen Mr. Nixon “walking the halls” of the White House “talking to pictures of former Presidents.”

It is only fair to add that David Eisenhower later denied having made such statements. But there is no doubt on the part of anyone that during *the final days* at the White House, Mr. Nixon was a deeply troubled man — a broken, saddened and embittered man. Woodward and Bernstein quote Barry Goldwater as supposedly asking Political Adviser Bryce Harlow: “Is the President off his rocker?” Harlow replied: “No. He was drunk.”

Shortly before his resignation, Nixon summoned Henry Kissinger to the White House. The President had been drinking, and he told Kissinger he was going to resign, and then he asked Kissinger: “Will history treat me more kindly than my contemporaries?” Then Nixon began sobbing.

Kissinger tried to console the President by telling him he would be remembered for his outstanding peacemaking. Mr. Nixon reportedly told Kissinger: “You are not a very orthodox Jew and I am not an orthodox Quaker, but we need to pray.” Nixon got down on his knees. The

President prayed out loud, asking for help, for respite from the trauma, for peace and love.

Bernstein and Woodward continue: "Kissinger thought he had finished. But the President did not rise. He was weeping. And then, still sobbing, Nixon leaned over, striking his fist on the carpet, crying, 'What have I done?' 'What has happened?'"

"Kissinger touched the President, and then held him, tried to console him as he sought to bring rest and peace to the man who was curled on the carpet like a child."

As the final days closed in on the President, his family and staff, he became moodier, more withdrawn and indecisive, and more irritable. On one occasion, he is quoted as having shouted at the newsmen and photographers. And on another occasion he is said to have screamed at Ron Ziegler, his press secretary, "Get out! Get out!"

Alexander Haig is quoted as having said of Nixon: "He's as guilty as hell." Haig gave his personal opinion of the man as "an inherently weak man who lacked guts."

Regardless of the truth of this final scenario of Nixon's agony during his last days, it is clear that both he, his family, his staff, and the whole nation had gone through an emotional wringer.

Let's hope that those who might be tempted to condemn President Nixon will remember that he did that which was very human to do under the circumstances; and who's to say that any of us would have done any better.

During America's traumatic Watergate ordeal, President Nixon told the nation: "If we learn the important lessons of Watergate, if we do what is necessary to prevent such abuses in the future . . . we can emerge from this experience a better and a stronger nation."

But . . . what important lessons should America have learned from Watergate?

Abraham Lincoln once said: "I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live up to what light I have. I must stand with anybody that stands right; stand with him while he stands right, and part company with him when he goes wrong."

No public servant can follow the footsteps of the Nazis of Hitler's Germany who believed in "blind obedience." Public officials need to be sure that they stay *within the law* — and that they don't ask others under their authority to bend the law of the land for selfish personal reasons.

Nearly three thousand years ago, David, King of Israel, said: "He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God." Is this truth the single most important lesson to be learned from Watergate?

Corporate Corruption

Following closely on the heels of the Watergate scandal, the shocking exposures of large-scale corruption within some of the nation's largest corporations have had a very unsettling effect on the American psyche.

How many more shocks could the U.S. take? High-placed wrongdoing had brought about the resignation of Vice President Agnew and President Richard M. Nixon. Nearly all of the President's men — at least those in top administrative positions — tumbled from power because of high-level wrongdoing while in office.

America's tragic Watergate affair also brought to the surface high-level corruption in many of this nation's biggest corporate institutions.

In fact, it was during the Watergate scandal investigations that a total of 17 companies confessed to making illegal corporate contributions to help re-elect President Nixon — thereby knowingly violating U.S. laws.

Most of those offending companies got off very lightly — with a mere slap on the wrist. Penalties were light. The tiny fines meted out by the Watergate Special Prosecutor's Office were usually \$5,000 for a guilty corporation, and \$1,000 for the top officer. Afterward, the Watergate Special Prosecutor's Office simply closed its books.

But the widespread uproar over illegal political contributions by the large corporations would not soon abate. During the Watergate investigations, the U.S. Government began to uncover evidence of widescale corporate bribery and corruption in their dealings with foreign nations.

One under-the-table payoff which had very explosive consequences was that made by *United Brands*. In 1974, United Brands gave a \$1.25 million bribe to a high government official in Honduras to get an export tax on bananas reduced. That shameful bribe was uncovered by the Security Exchange Commission's investigation into the suicide of United Brands' Chairman Eli Black. Black had heaved his briefcase through a window of his office on the 44th floor of the Pan Am Building in New York City. That deeply troubled Chairman then leaped through the broken window to a horrible death.

The disclosure of the unethical bribe by United Brands helped bring on a Honduran coup which overthrew the government of President Oswaldo Arellano. But far worse bribery scandals were about to surface.

The Lockheed Scandal

During 1975, the American public learned that the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation had paid out astronomical bribes to many overseas

nations. In August, 1975, Lockheed admitted that it had paid out over 24 million dollars to foreign nations in recent years in order to promote plane sales.

Just what was the true extent of Lockheed's bribes to various foreign countries?

The Japanese Government was badly shaken by what appeared to be its worst scandal in 20 years. Evidence revealed that Lockheed had paid out over 12 million dollars in under-the-table bribes to nail down plane sales of about \$2 billion! Prince Bernhard of Holland was accused of being the recipient of a million-dollar-plus Lockheed payoff. The Prince denied the charge. The Christian Democratic leaders of Italy who were trying to form a new Government, ran into difficulties over charges that Italian politicians had benefitted from a \$1.6 million payoff by Lockheed to sell fourteen C-130 cargo planes. In addition to these, Lockheed has already been linked to about a dozen countries or colonies: Colombia, Holland, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Nigeria, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Venezuela.

Furthermore, it is charged that Lockheed paid a commission of \$9 million on a \$117 million plane sale to South Africa. A "fee" of \$3.6 million had reportedly been paid on a \$45 million deal in Nigeria, and it was alleged that an illegal payoff of \$1.3 million was made to sell \$20 million worth of the huge Hercules cargo planes to Spain. Under-the-counter Lockheed payments have been made to numerous other foreign nations. Lockheed admits giving \$202 million in bribes, payoffs and commissions to foreign agents and government officials in Holland, Italy, Japan, Turkey, etc. The company also admits that \$22 million of this sum went for *outright bribes*.

These under-the-counter payments — payoffs, kickbacks, commissions, bribes — are a growing concern to many Americans. They believe this widespread corporate corruption — the giving of illegal political contributions at home, and of large bribes abroad — is doing irreparable damage to American firms which wish to increase their business with foreign countries. The American businessman, once thought of as honest and reliable, is now being viewed in a totally different light by foreigners.

The Federal Government is quite concerned over corporate corruption of U.S. firms. President Ford has spoken out against this widescale corporate chicanery. On March 31, 1976, the President said:

To the extent that the questionable payments abroad have arisen from corrupt practices on the part of American corporations, the United States bears a clear responsibility to the entire international community to bring them to a halt. Corrupt business practices strike at the very heart of our moral code and our faith in free enterprise.

Other nations are also beginning to crack down on bribery. In Britain, a judge sentenced two building inspectors, who had confessed to receiving bribes, with these remarks:

“Unfortunately we live in an age where moral standards are on the decline. But unless our commercial and public morals are to become those of an eighth-rate banana republic, the courts must show their disapproval of corruption in public office.”

Lockheed is far from being alone in the questionable practice of payoffs. Literally dozens of U.S. concerns have been involved in “overseas payments” and illegal campaign contributions within this country.

Lockheed is the nation’s No. 1 defense contractor. This giant maker of aircraft had an estimated \$3.25 billion worth of sales in 1975. But Lockheed is not the only aircraft company to make large bribes to foreign nations. Others who have made payoffs include Boeing, Douglas, Grumman, McDonnell and Northrop. Investigators, digging through company records, have found that Northrop distributed a staggering \$30 million in payoffs to foreign agents.

In fact dozens of U.S. companies plainly admit that they have made payoffs on the side to private entrepreneurs, or to greedy foreign government officials, either to obtain contracts, or to cut through the morass of exasperating red tape necessary to do business overseas. The Securities and Exchange Commission is investigating about one hundred such cases.

Nine Other Big Spenders

Besides Lockheed, nine other of America’s biggest companies admit they have given payoffs to foreigners.

Ashland Oil, Inc. admits paying out over \$300,000 to foreign officials, including \$150,000 to President Albert Bongo of Gabon to retain mineral and refining rights in his country.

Burroughs Corporation says that \$1.5 million in corporate funds may have been used in improper payments to foreign officials.

Exxon Corporation admits having paid \$740,000 to government officials and others in three foreign countries. Also, Exxon admits its Italian subsidiary made \$27 million in secret but legal contributions to seven of Italy’s political parties.

Gulf Oil Corporation also admits paying \$4 million to South Korea’s ruling political party in order to continue with planned operations. Gulf also admits giving \$460,000 to Bolivian officials — including a \$110,000 helicopter to the late President René Barrientos Orutño — for coveted oil rights.

McDonnell Douglas Corporation admits having paid \$2.5 million in

commissions and consultant fees between 1970 and 1975 to government officials of several foreign countries.

Merck & Company, Inc. admits having given \$3 million (primarily in "commission-type payments") to employees of 36 foreign governments during the years 1968-1975.

Northrop Corporation has admitted, at least in part, Security Exchange Commission charges that it paid out \$30 million in commissions and bribes to government officials and agents in Iran, France, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, West Germany, Brazil, Malaysia and Taiwan.

G. D. Searle & Company admits it paid out \$1.3 million to foreign governmental employees during 1973-1975 in order to "obtain sales of products or services."

United Brands Company has admitted paying a \$1.25 million bribe to Honduran officials so they would reduce the banana export tax. It also admits paying \$750,000 to European officials.

And these corporate bribery admissions are merely the tip of the iceberg. Much of the past chicanery will never be uncovered.

The revelation of widespread American bribery of foreign business entrepreneurs and government officials sent shock waves through a dozen world capitals. Lockheed's admission of paying out bribes to Holland and Japan caused serious repercussions in those two countries. For a while it was feared that the Lockheed scandal might even topple the Government of Japan. Prime Minister Miki was worried and promised to take action.

There were also fears that any proven bribery involvement with Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, might even cause the abdication of Queen Juliana.

Shoulder-Shrugging Complacency

There are many who defend corporate bribery of foreign officials and business contacts. They say bribery is *a way of life* overseas — a long standing tradition. In fact, many businessmen endorse the view that since bribery and corruption are commonplace in foreign nations, American businessmen have to go along, or lose sales to unscrupulous foreign competitors. They contend that when bribery is customary in a particular country, American businessmen ought to be able to accept it and go along with the practice. To some, the practice is quite harmless.

One upper-and middle-level corporate managers' poll which was made not long ago revealed present attitudes toward bribery. These upper- and middle-level corporate managers were asked whether they believed bribes should be paid to officials in foreign countries where such under-the-counter practices were standard. Surprisingly, 48% said yes. Other surveys have come up with similar findings. In another instance,

a similar poll revealed that three-quarters of the executives freely admitted that their companies had been asked to pay bribes.

American businessmen complain that throughout much of the world, there is the outstretched palm. Bribery in actual fact is known to grease all kinds of business transactions — all the way from selling a fleet of aircraft to securing a minor import license.

Many American businessmen argue that since “everybody does it,” why can’t they also be allowed to go along with the practice in order to prevent vital sales going to unscrupulous competitors.

But there are many in the U.S. business world who disagree. They subscribe to the belief that “Honesty is always the best policy.” They deprecate the practice of using bribes to lubricate foreign sales — regardless of foreign custom.

These anti-bribery advocates argue that a permissive corporate attitude toward bribery lessens company morals. If lower-echelon employees see the boss setting an example of handing out bribes, then why can’t they also indulge in shady practices?

Is it coincidence that several U.S. companies caught paying bribes abroad are the very same ones that broke the law at home by making illegal political contributions out of corporate funds?

Those who argue that bribery is morally wrong, also point out that American acquiescence in this practice has actually undermined chances for future fat contracts with foreign nations.

Many Americans are now urging that Congress pass laws which will make it illegal to indulge in the common practice of bribery in business deals overseas. They argue that this will prove a strong deterrent. If corporate executives know they can receive heavy fines or imprisonment, they might think twice before taking part in under-the-counter deals with foreigners. It is argued that if America has a high code of business ethics, this might put pressure on foreign nations to curb some of the bribery practices which are, admittedly, so rampant in many foreign countries.

It is a fact that many U.S. companies do succeed overseas *without* making shameful under-the-counter payments. Xerox, IBM, W. R. Grace and Phelps Dodge are only a few of the ethically-conscious American companies who are widely known for their refusal to make payoffs. So the inane argument that if you don’t go along with the practice of bribery, you can’t get sales, is baseless. Foreigners realize that America’s long lead in technology tends to put U.S.-made products in the front line of those which are generally considered more desirable.

The Dark Cloud of Corruption

The never-ending flow of disclosures of large-scale corporate bribes and illegal political contributions to officials both in America and abroad

continues to spread a darkening cloud over the global reputation of American business.

How can this cloud be removed from over the heads of U.S. business? Stringent U.S. laws to curb the practice of giving bribes to foreigners could help the situation. But, admittedly, the real impetus to overcome this problem will have to come from *top management* in business. If the chief indulges in shady practices — gives bribes, receives kickbacks, makes under-the-table deals — then his underlings will be certain to follow his example. If the boss is crooked, lower-level employees will take the cue from him, and will help forge a chain of corruption right down to the lowest echelons of the company command structure.

A few years ago, a magazine survey asked 103 business executives if they really believed the old saying: "Honesty is always the best policy." The overwhelming majority doubted whether practicing honesty would really enable a man to climb to the top in the competitive business world. Only two answered in the affirmative, and one of them said he knew he was being naive.

Here are three revealing comments from the business executives who answered the magazine survey: "In thirty years I've known of only three men who've reached executive positions cleanly, and I admit I'm not one of them." "The higher the executive is in the management ladder, the more likely he is to do some dirty work." "People who don't get dirty don't make it."

American businessmen and corporate leaders need to return to the old-fashioned concept that honesty is, after all, always the best policy. American business practice needs an housecleaning.

The old-fashioned belief in loving one's neighbor as oneself is still a valid rule to follow. All too often, however, in today's cut-throat, competitive, dog-eat-dog business world the golden rule ("Do unto others as you would have them do unto you") is totally ignored — or distorted.

Will American business change its present counter-productive course of indulging in sharp business practices at home and abroad? And will American businessmen have the courage to set the proper *example* when doing business overseas — utterly refusing, regardless of local customs, to grease the palms of would-be clients? Or will the U.S. Government have to step in and make it illegal for Americans to give bribes even to foreigners?

Sky-Rocketing Crime

Watergate and corporate crime are just two aspects of a much larger picture, however. Individual crime continues to sky-rocket all across the U.S.

If the America of today is anything — it is a crime-ridden land. This

ever-growing menace to society exacts a very high price — both emotionally and monetarily.

President Ford, in his state of the union address on January 19, 1976, declared:

To keep a convicted criminal from committing more crimes, we must put him in prison so he cannot harm more law-abiding citizens. To be effective, this punishment must be *swift* and it must be *certain*. Too often, criminals are not sent to prison after conviction but are allowed to return to the streets. Some judges are reluctant to send convicted criminals to prison because of inadequate facilities. To be effective, this punishment must be *swift* and it must be *certain*.

Nearly three thousand years ago, wise old King Solomon understood the need for speedy justice: "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil" (Ecclesiastes 8:11).

For many decades the rate of crime continued to rise in the U.S. Few, it seems, grasp what is really behind this steep rise in crime. And fewer still are willing to do what is necessary to cope with this most serious problem.

Any way you look at the U.S. crime picture, serious crime has become an ominous national affliction. Consider these facts: The rate for all serious crimes in the U.S. has more than doubled since 1961. From 1973 to 1974 the serious crime rate showed the largest increase in the last 44 years — jumping 17 percent. Thankfully, the 1975 crime rate rose by only about 9 percent.

During the past 14 years, the rate of robberies increased 225 percent; aggravated assault, 153 percent; murder, 106 percent! And forcible rape shot up 143 percent!

America's big cities have the highest rates of crime, but the actual rate of increase is now greater in the suburbs (with a 20 percent increase last year) and in the rural areas (up 21 percent).

Homicide figures are considered the most reliable of all crime statistics. During 1974, over 20,000 Americans were murdered.

Few burglars, rapists and muggers are caught. Only 20 percent of the FBI's 10 million reported crimes resulted in arrests last year. Nevertheless, some basic facts are indisputable. Almost half of all street arrests are of teenagers and young adults; the peak age for violent crimes is 15. Forty-four percent of the nation's murderers are 25 or younger. Of those arrested for street crimes, excluding murder, 75 percent are under 25 and 45 percent are under 18.

Not only is there an increase in serious juvenile crime, but there is also a sharp rise in crimes committed by females. Of those arrested for larceny-theft last year, 33 percent were female. Women are also becoming more violent.

What is the cost of crime in America today?

During 1974, criminals struck 19 times every minute (ever three seconds). Crime in the United States rose 18% during 1974 — netting \$2.6 billion in loot. The cost to the taxpayers in combatting crime ran into multiple billions of dollars.

The number of offenses in all of the seven major crime categories (murders, rapes, assaults, robberies, burglaries, larcenies and motor vehicle thefts) was 18 percent higher in 1974 than during the previous year. And the crime rate (the number of offenses per 100,000 population) rose 17 percent in the same period.

Causes and Cures of Crime

What are the major causes — and cures — of crime in our beloved America? How can the private citizens as well as public officials help get a handle on this serious problem — before it destroys this great nation?

There are about as many “causes” of crime as there are analysts of the crime picture. There can be little doubt that the most serious trend in American life which invites crime is the serious break-down in the family structure. This includes such factors as divorce, desertion, child-beatings, child-neglect, lack of positive teaching, training and example of the parents.

A serious deterioration in religious teaching is also believed to be one of the major contributory causes of both juvenile and adult crime in America. This also applies to education. In both our churches and our schools and colleges there is often a serious lack of positive teaching of respect for law and authority.

TV Violence

Canned TV violence is also greatly to blame for the continued rise in serious crime in the U.S. What youngsters see on TV, they often mimic in real life. Three teen-age girls lured two younger girls down a lonely path in the city of San Francisco and sexually molested them. In the city of Chicago, two young boys attempted to extort \$500 from a firm by means of a bomb threat; and in Boston, a gang of youths set a woman on fire with gasoline. The police investigating these crimes concluded that in all three of the aforementioned cases, the violent acts had been directly inspired by viewing violent shows on prime-time television.

A 17-year-old girl allegedly beat, choked and robbed an 86-year-old man in his Coney Island apartment. In New York City, a 13-year-old boy blew off his father's head with a shotgun! And in New England a 12-year-old boy admitted he set fire to a playmate because she refused to take money from a cash register in her father's store. How many other

gruesome juvenile murders and other serious crimes are TV-inspired?

And it is not only during prime-time TV viewing that today's youths view violence on American TV. A recent Nielsen survey showed that 5 million kids under 11 years of age sat transfixed before their TV sets between 10 and 11 o'clock on a recent week night.

For decades now, America has had a steady diet of "shoot-'em-ups" on TV. Such programs accounted for only 20% of all prime-time TV twenty years ago. But today that figure has soared to 60%, buttressed by no fewer than 24 current crime series.

Sober estimates are that by the time an average American child has reached the age of 15, he will have witnessed on TV over 13,000 killings.

Why do TV producers feed the American public so much violence on TV? Simply because they know that violence is the TV writers' most effective attention-getting device. Violence appeals to an ever-increasing TV audience. In other words, violence pays the commercial sponsor.

Watching so much violence inspires violence. It is believed that constant, heavy exposure to TV violence numbs normal emotional sensitivities in young viewers. They can become so conditioned to violence, that they can commit such acts without flinching.

Tragically, this over-exposure to TV violence is turning Americans into "hardened, ugly Americans." If this vicariously shared violence on TV continues, we can expect to have more My Lais, more Manson-type murders, and unheard-of violence that will even tingle the ears of today's violent-prone Americans.

Family-related Causes of Crime

Many psychologists point an accusing finger at faulty parent-child relationships in a child's early life. Overly lax, overly strict or erratic child rearing contributes to delinquency, while a generally "firm but kind" approach inhibits it.

Children are more likely to turn to crime if their parents fight frequently, or if one parent is missing through death, divorce or abandonment.

Other studies show that much of today's violence is learned in the home, and that child abuse is on the rise. The Fortune Society, a group of ex-convicts, reports that over half its membership was severely abused as children. A New York study of nine juvenile murderers, including a girl who chopped a victim to pieces with a machete knife, showed that all nine had been routinely beaten by their parents.

It seems clear that the old values and restraints have been battered by recent upheavals — war, riots, assassinations, situation ethics. As disillusionment sets in, fewer and fewer Americans look to the churches, schools or parents for moral leadership. If "a society gets the criminals it

deserves," as 19th century, French criminologist Jean Lacassagne said, then America had better brace herself for more crime and violence!

When criminals realize that punishment of their crime will be neither swift nor sure they are emboldened to commit more acts of crime. Meanwhile, the vicious crime cycle continues.

The Ripoff Society

Not only is there widespread Government corruption from top to bottom, and pervasive corporate corruption, but there is omnipresent lying, cheating, fraud, corruption and every form of chicanery in the private sector of modern America. This may sound like a harsh indictment to some, but, sad to say, it is the truth! Many Americans have asked *why* there is an upsurge in fraud, theft, cheating and corruption. They ask if the U.S. is really becoming a ripoff society.

It seems that hardly a day passes without further revelations concerning consumer fraud, political chicanery, tax cheating, shoddy merchandise, medicare and medicaid frauds, overcharging, illegal price fixing, bogus repairs, worthless checks, the thumb on the scales, theft by employees, company bribes, payoffs, campaign-finance violations, securities crimes, insurance frauds, inferior merchandise, etc.

Ralph Nader told a congressional hearing not long ago: "You just have to read the *Wall Street Journal* for the week to be overwhelmed with this corporate crime epidemic sweeping the nation, the overseas as well There are securities crimes, insurance frauds, oil-company bribes, payoffs, campaign-finance violations and many, many others."

U.S. News & World Report ran a special report on "Ripoffs: New American Way of Life." The magazine asked: "Why the seeming upsurge in cheating, fraud, theft and corruption? Is the U.S. really becoming a ripoff society?"

"On the eve of the nation's 200th birthday, Americans are waking up to the unsettling discovery that they are living in a ripoff society.

"Hardly a day passes without disclosure of consumer fraud, political corruption and tax cheating.

"The taxpayer reads about bill gouging in medicaid and feels he has been ripped off. So does the manufacturer left with an unexplained inventory shortage, the merchant stuck with a drawer full of worthless checks, the home-owner who learns he paid \$2,000 for a \$500 roof job, and the auto owner whose mechanic seems more expert at levying huge bills than he is at repairing automobiles."

In April, 1976, a Gallup Poll of a cross section of America found that two out of three Americans polled believe people in general are less honest and less moral than in years past. Only ten years ago, a bare majority thought that morality and honesty was getting worse.

The Federal Trade Commission has more recently been focusing its investigations on undertakers, food advertising, mobile homes, health spas, hearing aids, home-study courses and used cars. Increasingly, consumers are having troubles involving autos, housing, insurance, furniture, containers and credit cards.

Two big ripoffs which have caused the nation to be scandalized involved the sale of meat and grain. Foreign buyers of American grain were overcharged by many millions of dollars for grain that was misgraded, short-weighted and, in some instances, badly adulterated. The U.S. Army also discovered they were being charged top prices for inferior cuts of meat, instead of receiving choice cuts as they had ordered.

It is virtually impossible to read a newspaper or listen to the daily news via radio or TV without hearing about someone being involved in graft or corruption.

Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark declared: "Cynicism inhibits corrective action and stimulates others to *cut corners* and perhaps commit crime. A moral looseness sets in because *the system itself seems to have no integrity.*"

Government investigations are turning up evidence of pervasive fraud and abuse in many government-sponsored programs including welfare, medicaid, medicare, Social Security and veterans benefits. One partial study conducted in the nation's capital revealed that 65 percent of those receiving welfare payments under Washington D.C.'s general public-assistance program were ineligible for benefits. A survey of veterans attending Federal City College in Washington found that virtually all of them were receiving more Federal funds than they were legally entitled to.

Shoplifting in the U.S. now runs into many billions of dollars. It has even been called "a sport of the rich," since many who indulge in this crime are not even in need.

Why the spiraling increase in fraud, cheating, theft and corruption? The real answer lies in the fact that there is an ever-waning positive influence in America's homes, schools, churches, colleges and universities. No longer are the old-fashioned principles of honesty, hard work, thrift and personal sacrifice being taught as a normal but highly prized way of life.

Why Watergate? Why so many corporate scandals? What has happened to American society that has spawned so much corruption, both among American political figures and private individuals?

The real answers to these questions can only be found in modern American education. And this includes education at all levels: 1) in the home, 2) schools, colleges and universities, 3) churches, and in 4) The Institute of Hard Knocks.

All-important Education-in-the-Home

The first, and the most profound, educational impact on the mind of a child is, without question, made *in the home*. If the parents or guardians set the right examples, and teach sound principles of honesty, fair-play, hard work, respect for authority, loyalty, patriotism, morality and reverence for the Supreme Being and His laws — then the children brought up under such good parental examples and positive instruction will have no little or no difficulty in becoming decent, law-abiding, productive, highly successful and respected members of the community.

But if the parents or guardians set a wretched example of drunkenness, immorality, laziness, untidiness, disrespect for the laws of the land, then any children reared in such an unwholesome environment will stand little chance of becoming good citizens in the community.

If the children see their parents being slovenly, profane, hateful, disloyal, unpatriotic, selfish and unloving toward each other and toward themselves — then they are likely to follow in the same footsteps.

If the children see their own mother entertain strange men while their father is away, or if they know their father is having an affair with some other woman — perhaps his secretary — such an example will be bad for them, causing many of them to imitate their own parents.

If children hear their father boast about sharp business practices, or overhear him mention padding his expense account, cheating on his income tax, or if they see him driving well beyond the speed limit, as he nervously watches the rear view mirror, while calling the police “pigs” — such an example will be sure to be emulated.

America’s parents need to become aroused to the serious responsibility of setting the right examples, and of giving good, sound, positive teaching and instruction to their children — before it is too late — before they wind up in institutions of correction, or are killed or maimed in a horrible auto accident, caused by drunkenness, carelessness, or outright disregard for the property and lives of others.

Education in Schools and Colleges

America’s youth also ought to receive, both by example and by positive teaching, the right kind of an education in their schools, colleges and universities.

Recent studies indicate that the quality of education in many of America’s schools is deteriorating. The basics — reading, writing, arithmetic, history, English — somehow aren’t being communicated as effectively as they once were by the teachers. But why?

The lack of discipline and therefore the lack of quality instruction in many of America’s schools really isn’t the fault of the teachers — at

least in many instances. Many of America's school teachers are faced with a seemingly impossible task. They are expected to teach and train youngsters who in many cases have had little of the right type of training and parental discipline at home.

Before students can be taught, a teacher must have their attention. And before a teacher can get a student's attention, that student must be quiet and responsive toward his instructor.

Many modern American students don't know how to sit still, how to give their undivided attention to their teachers, or how to show respect toward their instructors. In all too many schools there is very poor attentiveness; therefore, little learning.

Rowdyism, violence and outright crime are rampant in all too many schools. In fact, violence and drug abuse are so commonplace that it is now necessary for policemen to patrol the corridors in many schools. Teachers have been assaulted right in their own classrooms. Many teachers have had to resort to walking down the halls of the school buildings in pairs.

When you realize the very difficult and dangerous task which many teachers face in today's schools, then you can have a little more sympathy for them in their difficult, uphill job of trying to educate undisciplined, unruly, disrespectful, and disinterested students.

America would do well to decorate many of her teachers for bravery.

A few schools are now trying to get back to the "fundamentals" of the earlier American type of schools — where the real basics were thoroughly taught, and where the right kind of balanced discipline was administered. As an example, the "fundamental schools" in the Pasadena, California school district have been having very good education results, especially when one considers the very difficult circumstances under which they have had to operate.

Before today's youth can grow up into well-educated, law-abiding, productive citizens within the American community, they need a good educational foundation. But all too often, many of America's teachers don't set the best example before their students. America's most precious heritage is her youth! They need to be trained by teachers who really understand what life is all about, and who know how to inspire their students in the important, fundamental principles of sound education. At the same time they ought to be able to teach the *true values* — how to live happy, productive, meaningful lives.

All too often permissiveness, materialism, agnosticism or outright atheism (often in the guise of Evolution) is funneled into the minds of America's impressionable youth.

America's educational bloodstream has been polluted by the theory

that life evolved without the intelligent direction of a Supreme Being who supervises His entire creation, and who controls the destinies of all nations.

According to a 1968 Gallup Poll, 98 percent of all Americans profess to believe in God. Why, then, do so many teachers and educators espouse the concept that everything just evolved without any conscious intelligence behind it? How could life have come from the not-living? How is it possible for all the laws and forces of the universe — the vast energies of Nature — to have come from *nothing*?

How could the marvelous creation, with its intricate ecology systems, have just “happened”? How could the vital web of life have evolved by *blind chance*?

The anti-God, evolutionary concept is being actively taught in many of America’s schools, colleges and universities. In the United States, there has been a dangerous drift into materialism. The Supreme Being is often either ignored or rejected outright.

And once one rejects the concept that there is an All-wise, intelligent, omnipotent Being who sits at the controls of the Universe — guiding and directing His creation — then such a person becomes a disciple of do-as-you-pleasism. If there is no Supreme Being to whom all humans must, sooner or later, give an account, then everyone can do his own thing. Situation ethics and rank permissiveness are a natural result of agnosticism and atheism.

Why has America rejected prayer in its public schools, but at the same time permits the atheistic concept of Evolution to be actively taught to children whose parents’ religious beliefs (guaranteed by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution) are totally opposed to such intellectual garbage?

Much of today’s educational program — both in our schools and colleges — is geared to teach students *how to earn a living* — how to succeed in a chosen occupation or vocation — but at the same time utterly fails to teach America’s youth *how to live!* Is money everything? Has the “god of mammon” replaced the Creator God? Is it more important to teach students how to earn money — than how to live a joyous, abundant, productive, fulfilled life?

Shouldn’t American education shift its emphasis from intellectualism and materialism, to the more important *moral* and *spiritual* values: honesty, loyalty, patriotism, service, hard work, high-principled business ethics, respect for law and order, and above all else, deep respect and reverence toward that Great Being whom 98 percent of us profess to believe in? Modern education neglects this all-important “missing dimension” of learning.

Watered-down Church Education

Much of today's teaching from the pulpits has been so watered down as to have little or no lasting effect on the conduct and lives of youth.

Why is this so?

Many in the religious world have been all too willing to compromise and water down their religious principles. When the real "kernel" is removed from the moral and religious principles of the church's teachings, and when their communicants are fed with the "chaff," then it is only natural that many modern Americans — regardless of which denomination they belong to — are confused, bewildered, perplexed over what to believe and practice. Today's churches have so blurred the line between right and wrong, that many are left utterly confused!

The "new morality" — which is nothing but the "old immorality" — is simply the way of *permissiveness*. Many now believe in situation ethics: what is right and good for me is not necessarily good for you, and what is wrong or bad for you is not necessarily wrong or bad for me; and what is good and right today, may not necessarily be so tomorrow; while that which is evil at the moment may not be evil tomorrow.

It is a sad fact that the churches of the Western World are divided and confused on many important issues. A few years ago, Methodist Bishop Hazen G. Werner was quoted publicly as having said: "We have been dried out by the hot winds of secularism. We who are to overcome the world have been overcome by the world."

Dean Miller of Harvard's Divinity School admitted, "The Church simply does not have a cutting edge. It has taken the culture of our time and absorbed it."

He is not alone in such frank admissions. Yale's Chaplain Coffin also agrees: "We churchmen," said Coffin, "are gifted at changing wine into water — watering down religion."

Many of the "old-fashioned" principles of morality which America's churches taught during our early history, have been ignored, watered down or repudiated by all too many modern ministers, priests and rabbis.

The Institute of Hard Knocks

And America's youth certainly aren't learning the true values of morality and happiness in the world at large. When the homes, schools, colleges, universities, and the churches utterly fail to instill sound principles of honesty, loyalty, patriotism, and sound morality, then it is highly unlikely that the youth will learn such true values outside those institutions.

Why was the Watergate scandal possible? How could so many large American corporations become deeply enmeshed in illegal political contributions at home, and shameful bribes abroad? How can it be that America has descended into the depths of immorality, lawlessness and serious crime?

Unless and until the peoples of our highly favored nation (“the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven”) are willing to retrace our steps, and go back to teaching and practicing the true values in our homes, schools, colleges and churches, there will be no letup in immorality, fraud and corruption, lawlessness, and crime.

We can only change our society by recapturing the true moral values. America badly needs a change of heart. We, the peoples of these United States, need to heed the admonitions of our Founding Fathers and make “religion and morality” a vital part of our lives — from the cradle to the grave!

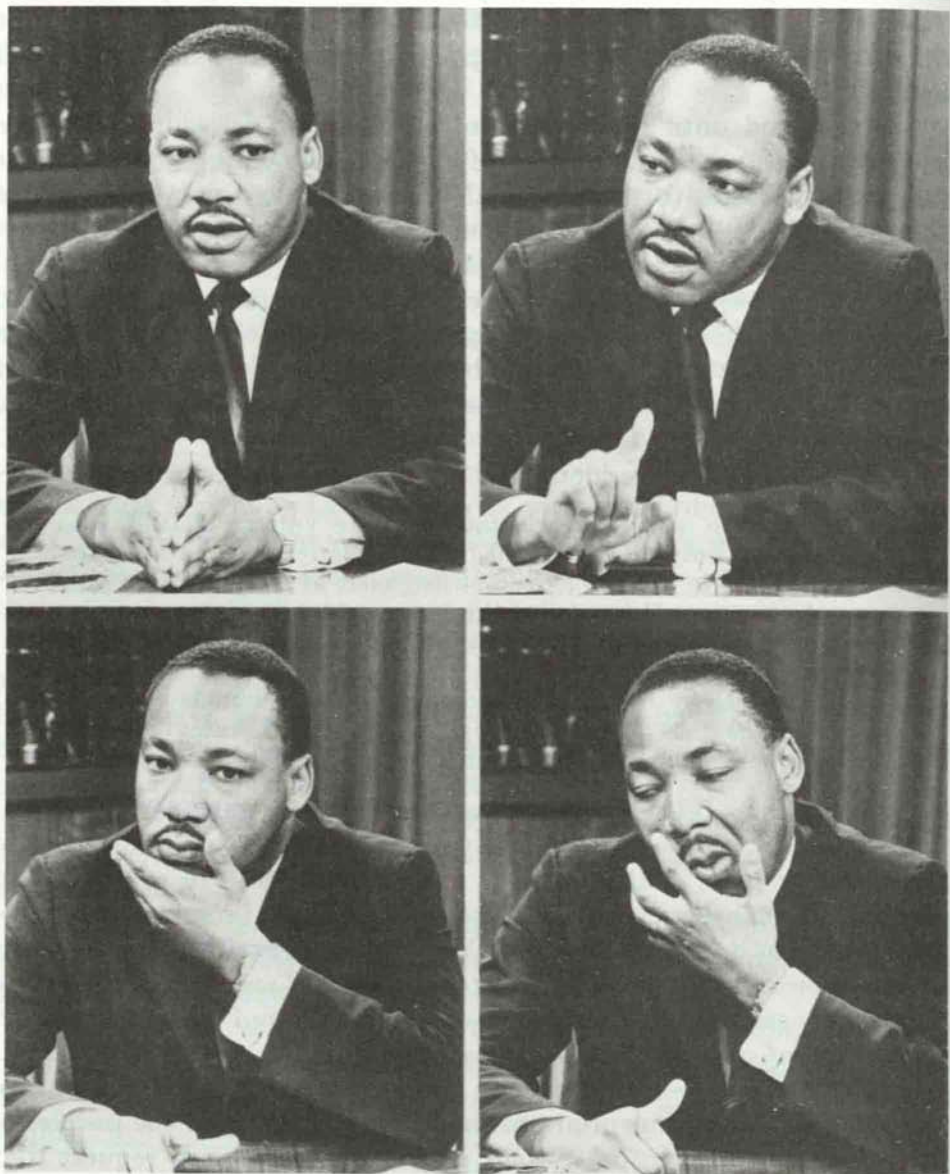
The Second U.S. President, John Adams, said this truth well:

As no truth is more clearly taught in the Volume of Inspiration, nor any more fully demonstrated by the experience of all ages, than that a deep sense and a due acknowledgment of the governing providence of a Supreme Being and of the accountableness of men to Him as the searcher of hearts and righteous distributor of rewards and punishments . . .

. . . I do hereby recommend accordingly, that Thursday, the 25th day of April next, be observed throughout the United States of America as a day of solemn humiliation, fasting, and prayer . . .

John Adams besought his fellow-Americans to take the proclamation seriously. He urged them to pray “that He (God) would interpose to arrest the progress of that impiety and licentiousness in principle and practice so offensive to Himself and so ruinous to mankind; that He would make us deeply sensible that ‘righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people’ . . . *that He would smile on our colleges, academies, schools, and seminaries of learning, and make them nurseries of sound science, morals, and religion*”

Isn’t it about time that we had another President with the courage to issue a similar Presidential proclamation, calling upon the peoples of these United States to unite their prayers in the fervent request that that same “Supreme Being” might yet “smile on our colleges, academies, schools, and seminaries of learning, and make them nurseries of sound science, morals, and religion”?



Martin Luther King became a symbol of the advancement of Civil Rights of the blacks. "I have a dream" — said King in an impassioned speech shortly before he was assassinated in Memphis in 1968. — *Wide World Photo*