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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1974 - *A.M.*

I HAVE SAID THE PARDON OF RICHARD NIXON WAS PREMATURE. IT WAS A MISTAKE AND NOTHING COULD CONVINC ME OTHERWISE EXCEPT POSSIBLY, CONFIRMATION OF THE PERSISTENT RUMORS ABOUT THE FORMER PRESIDENT'S HEALTH.

AND IT'S UTTERLY RIDICULOUS -- IT'S INFURIATING -- TO THINK THAT MISTAKE MAY BE COMPOUNDED BY THE WHOLESAL PARDON OF OTHERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN WATERGATE RELATED CRIMES. YOU CAN'T WRITE OFF MONTHS OF ANXIETY, ANGER AND CONCERN ABOUT WATERGATE WITH A SINGLE PRESIDENTIAL STROKE OF THE PEN. AND YOU CAN'T IGNORE OUR TRADITION OF EQUAL APPLICATION OF THE LAWS.

AMERICANS ARE COMPASSIONATE, BUT THEY CAN ONLY TAKE SO MUCH. THERE IS TOO MUCH TALK OF PARDONS AND AMNESTY IN THE AIR TO SUIT THEM. AND THE PROSPECT OF LETTING LAW-BREAKERS OFF THE HOOK WHOLESAL IS JUST PLAIN TOO MUCH FOR ME.