

26 March 1975

Letters Editor  
The New York Times  
229 West 43rd Street  
New York, N. Y. 10036

Dear Sir:

A majority of Americans with whom I concur are disillusioned by the way the government is being run. Confidence in the ability of the executive branch to rule in the common interest is undermined by the evasions, misrepresentations, and out-right lies disseminated by the President, his cabinet secretaries, and the heads of bureaus. Either these executive officers consider Americans too unintelligent to judge where the truth lies, or they are fearful that the truth will reveal their own ineptitudes.

Dispensing misinformation is the technique used to gain political support for unpopular policies, as for example, military aid to Cambodia and South Vietnam. President Ford tells us that to abandon our allies will bring everlasting shame upon the United States. These countries are not our allies. We have no treaty of defense with either of them, nor do we have agreements to support them indefinitely with arms. The Van Thieu and Lon Nol governments are the recipients of our military charity for which they have not demonstrated a worthiness to justify its continuation.

When Secretary Kissinger recommends continued aid to Lon Nol for reasons based on the Paris accord he shows more concern for his reputation than for the lives of Cambodians. Secretary Schlesinger distorts history when he urges military aid to South Vietnam on the grounds of Hanoi's violations of the Paris accord ignoring the fact that violations began with Saigon before the ink was dry. Americans have constantly been misled and deceived concerning the parameters of national interest and national security. The United States has indeed been brought to the depths of shame by the devious ways in which it was maneuvered into involvement in Southeast Asia in the first place.

We have been deceived by Kissinger about his advocacy of CIA involvement in the overthrow of the Allendi government of Chile. And the lying about covert and illegal activities of the FBI and CIA, which are just now coming to light, continues.

The administrative decisions of the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture demonstrate a greater sensitivity to industrial than to the people's interest or to environmental considerations.

A good many congressmen agree with or are persuaded by these debasing techniques, but fortunately in the present Congress a majority are not taken in. And because they are not, and because they protest these practices, the practitioners of chicanery blame them for the consequences of their own discredited actions, the last word in cynicism and dishonesty.

Yours truly,