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Letters

William Colby's Ungrateful Nation

To the Editor:

I do not understand why an Administration that constantly extols the virtues of patriotism singles out for censure and embarrassment a man whose adult life has been spent in distinguished public service.

William Colby was decorated for valor in World War II, forsook a lucrative career as a private lawyer to work for the C.I.A. and, at President Ford's request, resumed his directorship of it after being abruptly dismissed at a time when the Director's job was not a happy one. One can agree or disagree with what he did as C.I.A. Director, but not with his motives for being there.

The Administration's desire to curb leaks of classified information is understandable. If, in fact, Mr. Colby breaches national security in his book, he is certainly not the only or most culpable public figure to have done so. To sue him as an example of the Administration's resolve [news story Sept. 21] is unbecoming and unfair.

JOHN C. KIYONAGA
New York, Sept. 24, 1981