

To Put Watergate Behind Us

To the Editor:

Although the issue of legislative charters for the Federal intelligence and law enforcement agencies is, as your Jan. 10 editorial says, important, "the end of Watergate" will not "truly be in sight" until public financing comes to Congressional elections.

Day after day your news columns report the sad results of the current system: Congressmen are put into office by the special interests their committees are supposed to be regulating; aspiring senators without a million dollars handy do not even bother to run, and governmental initiative is smothered by a pervasive blanket of shady political I.O.U.'s.

These abuses have only become worse since the Watergate disgrace. Yet our legislators — who reacted with horror to the scandals revealed then, who promptly passed a public financing law covering Presidential elections and who today proclaim at every turn their support for trim, efficient government — have reacted to any threat to their entrenched privileges with a Nixonian stonewall.

If the public truly wants less and better government, then it will use the

power it demonstrated in 1974 to send a message to Congress that the time for hanging tough is over. Then, perhaps, we may truly be able to say that we have put Watergate behind us.

ERIC M. FREEDMAN
New Haven, Jan. 10, 1979