

An Impeachment Defense

Moon and 'the Archangel

Washington

On the evening of Dec. 29, 1973, leaders of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church in the United States gathered to plan a drive intended to prevent an impeachment of the President they called "the archangel Nixon," according to the minutes of that meeting.

The president of the Unification Church in America, Neil A. Salonen, told the 14 other participants at the meeting that the purpose of "Project Watergate" was "to bring new life to the archangel, Nixon — hence to make him aware of our significance."

Salonen, according to the minutes of the meeting, a copy of which was obtained by the New York Times, said that the project "is a direct priority from Master," an apparent allusion to Moon, the Korean evangelist who founded the Unification Church. Moon was not at the meeting, according to the minutes.

The head of the American branch of the church was further described in the minutes as disclosing something of Moon's ambitions, saying, "We are right on the edge of influencing people. Master wants to give an address to a joint session of Congress."

Beyond that, the minutes of that meeting seem to illuminate the aspirations of the church for political and religious influence in the United States and to illustrate its tactical approach to a political operation.

The document gives no evidence that the Korean government ordered the church to defend Nixon against the move toward impeachment that was then picking up speed.

Representative Donald M. Fraser (Dem-Minn.), the chairman of the subcommittee on international organizations, one of the House panels that has been investigating alleged Korean efforts to influence American policy, issued a report on the subject last month.

Fraser said his subcommittee had "received reliable information" that Moon "and organizations connected with him maintained operational ties with the government of South Korea and specifically the Korean Central Intelligence Agency."

Fraser gave no details and spokesmen for the church have denied the allegation.

In addition, the report said that a committee associated with Moon "had engaged in activities in opposi-



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Campaign Role

Actress Elizabeth Taylor allowed her blouse to collect Dalton campaign buttons at a Republican fund-raising event yesterday on her estate, Atoka, near Middleburg, Va. John Dalton (right) is running for Virginia governor. Behind them stood John Warner, Miss Taylor's husband.

tion to the impending impeachment of former President Nixon." The report did not give details.

A spokesman for the church said that it would be difficult to verify the minutes without a check through files. The spokesman, who quoted Salonen as saying that the minutes of the meeting were never released, confirmed however, that all those named in the document were members of the church.

The spokesman said other pieces of internal evidence were in accord with church practice, and authoritative government investigators here said that they had determined that the document was authentic.

In the early 1970's, Moon made two trips to the United States, then came to stay in 1972. He confined

his speeches to religious subjects until the fall of 1973, when he returned from a visit to Korea and plunged into a defense of Nixon.

"At this moment in history, God has chosen Richard Nixon to be President of the United States," Moon said in a newspaper adver-

Nixon'

tisement at the time. That appeared to have been the start of the church's political activity.

In late December that year, at the meeting of the church leaders, Salonen is reported to have said, "We are ending the three-year period for America, when Master is going to decide if he can work in America or not. We must show him he can by our being adaptable, responsible and quick."

The minutes quote Salonen further: "For deciding congressmen, this is the crucial time. Impeachment proceedings are beginning. Yet polls are indicating that Nixon's popularity was just up by four percentage points to 31 per cent. Now is the time to affect them at the grass roots level."

Salonen outlined plans for allies and other political action intended "to show Nixon and Congress both our own power and the outer support that we can generate." He said that three aspects must be emphasized, as follows:

"1) Impact on the media—visibly, strongly; 2) Impact on congressmen, and 3) Impact on influential community leaders to approach congressmen themselves."

After Salonen spoke, the minutes disclose, he turned the meeting over to Daniel G. Fefferman, who was national project director. Fefferman is now under a threat of a citation for contempt of Congress for refusing to answer questions before Fraser's subcommittee.

Fefferman, who then headed the Freedom Leadership Foundation, political affiliate of the church, offered advice on dealing with the press: "Move as quickly as possible"

Fefferman urged that news releases be delivered early, with details filled in later.

As to television, Fefferman was recorded as saying: "Small, intimate, personal things can make a large impact. One excerpt showed one person crying as she prayed. It gave weightiness, integrity and sincerity one level deeper.

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