

# Letters to the Editor

## G.O. Audits of the Fed

the necessary background, but clearly without responsibility for making decisions—to make pronouncements about policies that the responsible System officials have spent sleepless nights considering would in my judgment be bad government.

The view that a G.A.O. audit may carry dangers to the integrity of monetary policy is shared by many leaders in Congress. Wilbur Mills has put it this way:

“Our economy is in a critical stage, calling for a high order of responsibility in fiscal and monetary policies. As much as I respect the competence of the General Accounting Office, I am convinced that in the sensitive area of money and credit policy, judgments should be left to the monetary authorities who bear the responsibility for those policies and who report directly to the Congress concerning them.”

ARTHUR F. BURNS  
Chairman, Federal Reserve Board  
Washington, Oct. 26, 1973

## Grounds for Impeachment

To the Editor:

James Reston is surely correct when he states (Oct. 24) that President Nixon's manipulation of the courts and his dismissal of Professor Cox “raised the most serious questions about his moral authority to govern over the next three years.”

But the issues go even deeper. The real question is whether the entire national leadership, in particular the Congress, can demonstrate its integrity and thus recapture the confidence of a country that has been so badly bruised by the Vietnam war, Watergate and the Agnew crime. This will occur only if the House of Representatives scrupulously follows through with its inquiry into the grounds for impeaching the President.

In this connection, it seems to me unfortunate that the clamor for impeachment has arisen after and focused on the tapes controversy. There are equally serious violations by the President that amply meet the constitutional standard of “high Crimes and Misdemeanors.” To mention but a few:

¶The President personally approved

the so-called “Huston plan” for domestic political surveillance by burglary, wiretapping, mail covers and military spying on civilians.

¶The President usurped the war-making powers of Congress in the bombing of neutral Cambodia and concealing the bombing from the Congress and the people.

¶The President established a secret police (the “plumbers”) within the White House which operated outside the restraints of the law.

¶The President perverted and attempted to pervert the operations of Federal agencies, including the Department of Justice, the Secret Service, the C.I.A. and the Defense Department.

This incomplete list omits the actions of some of the President's closest aides. It is reasonable and fair to attribute these to a President who has fostered an atmosphere of unprecedented moral indulgence in the White House.

Make no mistake. Impeachment is serious business. But it would be even more serious for Congress to avoid its responsibilities when challenged by a Chief Executive who is faithless to the rule of law and threatens constitutional government in the United States.

NORMAN DORSEN  
Professor of Law, N.Y.U.  
New York, Oct. 24, 1973