

NYTimes

NOV 13 1973

Arrogance of the Press

By William Loeb

MANCHESTER, N.H. — President Nixon should not now resign or be impeached because to do so would take control of the nation away from the voters and give it to a small group of arrogant self-appointed rulers in the form of radio and TV commentators, newspaper editorialists and publishers.

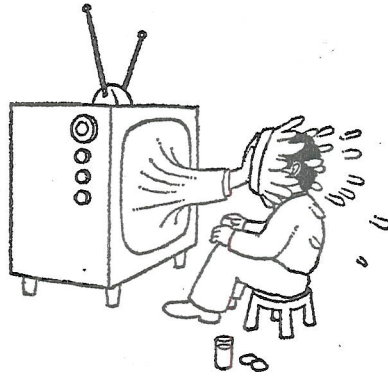
Certainly, in a free nation, one of its most desirable aspects is the ability of many voices in communications to contribute their opinions as to what is good or bad for the nation, giving the voters the benefit of their advice. However, when the editorial writers and the TV and radio commentators and the owners attempt to substitute themselves for the normal electoral process, then we have destroyed freedom in this country.

For President Nixon to either resign or be impeached at this time would be a complete surrender to hysteria deliberately created by the communications industry, which in its most important segment is monolithic in its hatred of President Nixon. They have carried on a vilification of him which exceeds all bounds of decency and propriety and which has created a lynching-type psychology in the nation in which no fair judgment of the present Administration can be made at this time.

Some months back, this writer did favor Mr. Nixon's resignation, not because of Watergate, but simply because of what we regard as Mr. Nixon's incompetence in office. We believe this is evidenced by the type of personnel appointments he has made, which in the end resulted in Watergate. There is also his inability to solve the inflationary aspects of our domestic economy and his surrender of our best national interests for spurious accommodations with the Communist leaders in Moscow and Peking.

At the time we favored President Nixon's resignation, however, Spiro Agnew had not been revealed for what he was and appeared to be ready to lead the country in a strong and vigorous fashion. Now that Mr. Agnew has resigned, the removal of President Nixon would mean that the votes of 47 million United State citizens in the 1972 Presidential election had been completely negated, the election results had been overturned and men whom the voters had not had a chance to inspect or choose at a national election would be in control of this nation. This is not the way a free country maintains its freedom.

It would indeed be very nice for the Democrats to be able to stall the confirmation of Congressman Ford to the Vice Presidency. Then, if they get rid of Mr. Nixon, of course, Democratic Speaker Albert would succeed to the



Presidency. Then the Democrats would have succeeded in what would be really a very nice political trick, namely reversing the results of the 1972 national election. The winners would then have become the losers and the losers would become the winners. That would, however, certainly not be the way a free country was intended to be governed.

This would be government by hysteria, government by a small group probably numbering fewer than a thousand who are in control of a communications industry dedicated to destroying the President of the United States.

The Constitution which gave freedom of the press certainly did not intend to give the power for the press to destroy the government which gave it that freedom.

We are at present faced with an unprecedented and unique situation for a free country. We are afflicted with an arrogant activist communications industry which is irresponsibly abusing the freedom given it by the First Amendment. TV, radio and newspapers have taken their legitimate right to comment and editorialize and gone on to the concept that it is proper for them to slant, distort and falsify the actual news to make it fit their left-wing activist views.

Thus, the people have been deprived of their basic right and necessity to have the true facts on the problems confronting the nation. True and correct information is the very lifeblood of a free country. The fact that the nation has had its information arteries poisoned has brought on the present national neurosis.

Truth can be as easily strangled by a biased and irresponsible communications industry as by any government official or politician.

Thus, with the spectre of President Nixon's resignation or impeachment, you are faced with a question of whether your vote in November, 1972, should now be thrown out and those who have created this national hysteria be allowed to pick our President. The answer, obviously, is no.

William Loeb is publisher of The Manchester Union Leader.