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For the Record

*From a speech before the Senate
March 1 by Senator George McGovern
(D-S.D.).*

Mr. Nixon has told us that beyond partisan considerations, he wants "the presidency to survive." No one can disagree with that expression. But what he chooses to ignore and what many of us have not yet been willing to assert is that Mr. Nixon's administration is now the chief threat to the presidency. And unless Congress can soon clear the skies of the clouds swirling around the White House, both the presidency and the Congress will be lost in the gathering storm.

If Mr. Nixon and his subordinates are not now called to account for what we have already been told about this administration, there can be no confidence either in the presidency or the Congress. The conduct of a single temporary occupant of the White House cannot destroy that great office unless we permit his wrongful conduct to go untried.

The people expect us, as their elected representatives, to assume whatever political pain and risk are involved in cleansing the body politic of its worsening afflictions. We are all on trial . . .

Numerous public opinion surveys have demonstrated that a majority of our citizens fear impeachment but strongly support a congressional inquiry and trial to resolve the President's guilt or innocence. As elected leaders, we have the obligation to inform the American people that the two procedures are identical—that impeachment is indeed an inquiry and trial to determine the President's guilt or innocence. . .

An impeachment inquiry and trial is the surest and, indeed, the only way to insure justice both for the President and for the American people.