

Two Presidents

"The granting of a request for virtually unlimited access to Presidential documents, conversations and other materials would, in the President's judgment, completely destroy the Presidency as an equal coordinate branch of our Government and is beyond his constitutional ability to grant."

President Richard M. Nixon's Special Counsel, James D. St. Clair, 1974

"The power of the House in the pursuit of [impeachment] would penetrate into the most secret recesses of the Executive Departments. It could command the attendance of any and every agent of the Government, and compel them to produce all papers, public or private, official or unofficial, and to testify on oath to all facts within their knowledge."

President James K. Polk, 1846.