

Jimmy the Greek Says; "No Impeachment"

Jack Anderson

Jimmy the Greek Snyder, the famous Las Vegas oddsmaker, is giving odds that President Nixon will not be impeached by the House of Representatives.

The Greek has never called a presidential election wrong since the Truman-Dewey upset in 1948. Because of his uncanny accuracy, we published Jimmy's political odds exclusively throughout the 1972 campaign.

Early in February, the Greek wrote a personal letter to each of the 437 members of the House of Representatives. He enclosed a confidential poll card and a stamped, self-addressed envelope. By this week, he had received a phenomenal 70.4 per cent response.

Of those congressmen who responded, 91 checked the box indicating they were "against" impeachment of the President. Sixty-four favored impeachment. Twenty-four "leaned toward" impeachment; 23 "leaned against." Seventy-five congressmen marked the "undecided" box.

In addition to the poll cards, Jimmy received personal letters from 28 congressmen who explained they had not made up their minds on the impeachment question because they had not heard the evidence. The Greek dropped these into the "undecided" column, bringing that total to 103.

Using these figures and a dash of black magic, Jimmy has painstakingly calculated his

odds, which were figured two days before the most recent Watergate indictments were handed down. Says the Greek: "I personally figured the odds are now 50 to 1 that Nixon will not be impeached by the House."

Jimmy then took his figures to his own computer expert, who put the odds at 100 to 1, against impeachment. The odds against both impeachment and conviction, says the Greek, are a prohibitive 1000 to 1 against.

Footnote: Jimmy hastens to emphasize that his odds reflect the political situation as it existed in early March. Any new indictments or Watergate exposes, he says, could drastically alter the figures.

WAITING COUNTERFEITERS—Federal investigators have picked up reports that counterfeiters are licking their lips over the prospect of reproducing phony gas ration coupons.

Three counterfeiters in the New York area alone, according to the confidential reports, are anticipating a big business in counterfeit coupons.

One of the three firms originally selected by the federal government to print 1.1 billion gas rationing coupons lost six bins of securities three years ago to Mafia stock thieves. Ever since this horrendous heist, millions worth of spurious stocks, bonds and other securities have been appearing all over the world.

The company whose securities were raided, Jeffries Banknote of Los Angeles, has now

lost the contract to print gas coupons. It's not that the government fears its coupons will be carted off by the bin load, for the company's security is tighter now. But the Jeffries presses can't handle the special coupon work.

The Federal Energy Office had hoped that the Bureau of Engraving, which has had only one substantial loss in some 25 years, could print all 4.8 billion coupons, a three-month supply.

But the Bureau of Engraving could handle only 3.7 billion of the coupons in time. The three private printers, therefore, were approached.

Jeffries dropped out a few weeks ago. The second company, American Banknote, once temporarily lost \$500,000 in Bank of Mexico notes to thieves and was robbed of \$250,000 from its English plant. But for almost 10 years its permanent losses in the U.S. have totaled less than \$10,000. U.S. Banknote, the third company, has had virtually no losses.

Several shipments of bank notes have been diverted or plundered, however, after they left the safety of the banknote firms themselves. These stolen securities subsequently have been sold or used as collateral by organized crime.

Federal agents, meanwhile, are working out techniques to try to forestall similar thefts of gas coupons.

Footnote: To keep tabs on the problem, Senate Investigations Chairman Henry Jackson (D-Wash.), has assigned his Mafia

specialist, Philip Manuel, quietly to check out the plants and their delivery systems. The Nixon administration still hopes, meanwhile, that rationing won't be necessary.

Smuggled Antiquities—The Smithsonian Institution, which has scolded art dealers for plundering antiquities from foreign lands, is about to acquire a barn load of looted treasures itself.

The Smithsonian's aristocratic secretary S. Dillon Ripley has been preaching to the museum world against "illicit, international traffic in . . . antiquities." Dealers, he declared, are "the pimps of the profession."

While holding himself above such dirty dealings, however, Ripley has been salivating over the fabulous collection of Joseph Hirshhorn, the tough old stock market operator. His treasures, which include hundreds of antiquities from abroad, will soon be turned over to the Smithsonian.

In the Hirshhorn Collection are stone sculptures torn from a Mayan temple, plus Turkish, Italian and Nigerian treasures. All these lands have strict laws against removal of their relics.

A Smithsonian spokesman assured us that the Hirshhorn trustees will comb through every antiquity and return any which were clearly ripped off from foreign lands. The search will begin when the collection is turned over to the Smithsonian.