

Impeachment: The U.S. Needs No 'Dreyfus Case'

To the Editor:

In all fairness, would you consider certain arguments against impeachment, in response to Pennington Haile and his ilk (letter April 20)?

Impeachment can serve no social purpose. The justification of punishment is that it may deter. "Watergate" must have already deterred this and future Presidents from any wrongdoing.

Impeachment cannot be objective. Basic requirements of due process do not exist. Pretrial publicity of ordinarily inadmissible evidence has been excessive. Impeachment proceedings must become increasingly political, too often motivated by re-election fears and simple partisanship.

Impeachment of the head of state, whether innocent or guilty, must impair conduct of the nation's foreign affairs, undermine faith in our Government and tarnish the Presidency.

Impeachment whether or not successful in the Senate, will bitterly divide United States families and the citizenry. Voters for Nixon who still favor him will feel that an election victory is being "stolen" by the media that never liked him. This nation needs no Dreyfus case.

Impeachment proceedings do not reflect any real public demand but rather a long media campaign. The public is disillusioned by "Washington" in general and wants to forget the whole mess. Perhaps it senses too that no one can predict where the impeachment road may take the nation.

How responsible are those who agitate for impeachment? Did these same persons and newspapers express outrage over election frauds that may have cost Nixon the Presidency in 1960? To what extent are they motivated, not by a desire to strengthen this Republic, but by personal dislike or political interest? **STEPHEN ENKE**

Washington, April 20, 1974