



The National Committee on the Presidency

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Dear Member:

Since the National Committee on the Presidency came into existence last September there have been many new developments, many more questions have been raised about the propriety of Mr. Nixon's conduct as President, and the House of Representatives has begun to move toward impeachment. We thought it appropriate, now, to comment on those developments and to tell you what your Committee has been doing.

The membership of your Committee is approaching 10,000. It represents all 50 states and the District of Columbia, a wide variety of age groups, and all major political parties. The largest contribution received this quarter was \$100, and many \$1 contributions were received -- some from retired people whose only income is Social Security benefits. Complete reports of the Committee's receipts and disbursements are filed each quarter with the Clerk of the U. S. House of Representatives and the Secretary of the U. S. Senate, and are public information.

Your Committee sponsored full page ads in the Editions of Sunday, April 21, of the Muncie, Indiana, Star Press, Peoria, Illinois, Journal Star, Davenport, Iowa, Times Democrat, and Sioux City, Iowa, Journal, which state our view that the Nation must have answers to questions regarding the President's conduct, and which ask for the views of readers of those newspapers. We hope that many readers will respond to the ad, because we believe the response will express the feelings of the thousands of people who wrote to support impeachment because of their grave concern that Mr. Nixon has violated his constitutional duties, and abused his political and personal power while in office. Preliminary returns from the ads are encouraging; almost 75% of those from the Muncie area who responded favor impeachment by the House and a trial in the Senate.

The Committee has also invited a number of leading historians and lawyers, among them the presidents of the American Bar Association and the New York City Bar Association, to write statements on the historic and

constitutional significance of inquiry into Presidential conduct -- to be placed in the record of the proceedings of the House and Senate at the appropriate time.

Many of our members have asked why the Committee does not join forces with other groups favoring impeachment. There are as many answers to that question as there are other groups. Some groups are interested in arranging demonstrations such as marches on Washington. -- In our view, the impact of such demonstrations is superficial and very temporary. Some groups are partisan and specifically Anti-Nixon. -- We are not against Mr. Nixon; we are, instead, in favor of integrity on the part of the president, and full hearings where there is serious question of official misconduct. Some groups have a definite "liberal" or "left-wing" identification. -- We do not, and do not intend to. We believe our credibility will be better if our appearance matches the reality, i. e. that we are non-political, represent all of our members, and are interested only in the integrity of the presidential office.

Over the past several months we have had a number of letters from Members of the House and Senate, and have met with Members of the House and the House Judiciary Committee, and with staff-members of the House and the Judiciary Committee. It is obvious from our discussions that the Judiciary Committee is determined to do a thorough, solid job of gathering and evaluating evidence and formulating charges. While the slow pace of this process is sometimes exasperating, and has been partially caused by Mr. Nixon's holding back even while he urged speed, the careful job being done by Chairman Rodino appears designed to produce agreement of the largest number of Judiciary Committee members to any recommendation it makes to the House. Bi-partisan support within The Judiciary Committee for its recommendation is, of course, necessary if the House is to be expected to take seriously a recommendation favoring a House hearing on impeachment. It was with that necessity in mind that we chose the cities we did for your Committee's newspaper advertising. The newspapers in Muncie, Sioux City and Davenport reach districts represented by David Dennis, Wiley Mayne and Tom Railsback, respectively -- all of whom are Republican members of The House Judiciary Committee. Peoria is within the district represented by Robert Michel, Chairman of the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee. We think it important that such Congressmen have available to them the best possible information on national sentiment in their districts, and that without it the decision of the House will not be acceptable.

Many of you have asked for further information about the Committee's Founding Members. Orville Schell is president of the New York City Bar Association; Fawn M. Brodie, James MacGregor Burns, John A. Garraty and Barbara Tuchman are historians; Hodding Carter III and Alfred A. Knopf are publishers; Rex Stout is a well-known writer. Charles Mee is the Editor of Horizon Magazine, published by American Heritage, and Theodore Zimmermann is an attorney.

Your Committee will continue to solicit the views of the public on impeachment, and to communicate those views to Members of the House and the Judiciary Committee in any appropriate manner. In this we need your continuing support. Please tell your friends, neighbors and relatives about the Committee, and give us their names and addresses if you want us to contact them directly.

Many of our members have received more than one solicitation from the Committee. The reason for this is simply that it is far more expensive to eliminate duplications from mailing lists than it is to send duplicate mailings. If you have received extra copies of our letter, pass them on to your friends.

Many of our members have written with a variety of questions about the Committee, its composition, operations, plans, etc. Because we have not been able to answer all these letters individually we have tried to answer them generally in this newsletter. Your Committee operates on a very small budget. It has only 2 employees -- one paid full-time and one paid half-time -- to handle all office work. It pays for the usual office expenses such as telephone, typewriter rental, stationery, etc.; but it pays no rent, and all administration, research, planning, legal work, etc. is donated to the Committee without cost.

Please accept our thanks for your support. Your contribution is a strong statement of your opinion and has helped us to spread the word. Remember that our job as citizens is not done until the House has voted out a bill of impeachment. If you or your friends can help further, please do so. If you know what more we can do, let us know.

Sincerely,

Charles L. Mee, Jr.,
Chairman

Theodore Zimmermann,
Vice-Chairman