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Expert Says 25th Amendment Not Applicable

New Haven, Conn.

Alexander Bickel a constitutional law professor at the Yale University Law School, said yesterday that it would be a "perversion of the 25th Amendment" for President Nixon to step aside temporarily during impeachment proceedings unless there was a claim of physical or mental disability.

The 25th Amendment allows the vice president to become acting president upon the President's written declaration that he is unable "to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits . . . a written declaration to the contrary."

The amendment, ratified in 1967, "was enacted to take care of physical or mental disability," said Bickel.

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