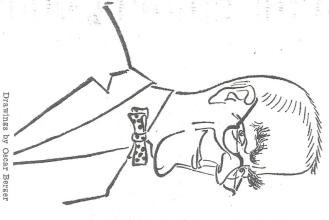
Marquis Childs

peachment pery Slope

us had long suspected. fantastic weekend that saw the Department of Justice stripped of authority has defied the laws and the courts, im-peachment is the only recourse. The brought into sharp focus what many of For the removal of a President who

The President's determination to



must therefore be a mistrial. insure that his confederates, indicted a sham, shows his clear intent to try to secret, with his proposed compromise hold the tapes and relevant documents defense is not available and vant evidence on which to base their or about to be tried, shall Their lawyers can claim that the relego free. there

suffice in the series of prosecutions tinent parts of the documents, would lent of the documentary evidence. Archibald Cox made this point in his Cox intended to bring. cutor. Only the documents, or the perfired by the President as special prosepress conference shortly before he was A summary will not be the equiva-

that this will be their defense. With eftary of Commerce Maurice Stans, the bility have the benefit of a mistrial. mer cabinet officials will in all probasence of relevant evidence, the two forforts to extradite the principal, Robert E. Vesco, from his hideout in Costa Vesco affair, two Cabinet members indicted in the eral John N. Mitchell and former Secre-Rica frustrated and the plea of the ab-Lawyers for former Attorney Genhave already indicated

the Nixon administration. The Halde-mans, the Ehrlichmans and the others sounds slightly paranoid put it down to something like a concerted plot. If this testify to the President's innocence of What is happening has the look of general atmosphere that infests

 $Archibald\ Cox$

ered his duty. any wrongdoing in Watergate. He in man determined to do what he considthe President had to go all the way and fire Archibald Cox, an honorable cinch this mutual protective society makes sure they escape conviction. To turn, by holding back the evidence,

order to fire Cox. support of the special prosecutor in his confirmation hearing. Richardson's deputy, Willaim D. Ruckelshaus folhad put his integrity on the line in torney General Elliot Richardson who lowed suit by refusing the President's This triggered the resignation of At-

er repression of whatever rights may demonstrated, was to guarantee sternhave previously existed. dictatorial societies in the past often sions about the danger of this weapon. growing out of these happenings, impeachment proceedings are likely to To shoot to kill the king and miss, as sentatives. But there should be no illumove swiftly in the House of Repre-With the highly charged emotions

party would be great. vote a bill of impeachment. But conviccal pressures to save a man and tion in a trial by the Senate must be could bring about acquittal. The politiwhat this means. Thirty-four senators by a two-thirds majority. By a simple majority the House can Consider

a President-that of Andrew Johnson, In the only previous impeachment of

> publicans had joined with Johnson cause of the weakness of the case Reacquittal. Democrats to bring about the narrow short of the necessary two-thirds. Beconvict in the senate was 35 to 19, one ics played a principal part. The vote to sassination of Abraham Lincoln—politwho succeeded to the office on the as-

would be no brake whatsoever on the ion. This is ident Agnew and resign from the of might follow the example of Vice Pres-President's power—save public opin-If he were tried and acquitted there to suggest that Nixon

firmation by the Senate and the House. 2 post. But this is certain to delay conof the man who tapped him for the No anything else than endorse the action and the public shocked and unsure of the future. Vice President-designate the government is in a shambles authority can least be Gerald R. Ford could hardly have done to the uncertainty in At a moment when uncertainty of the Mideast, afforded due

this slippery slope is the tragedy any successor. That a nation with inherent greatness should find itself on said to have the strong qualities of clubbable character who can hardly be is Speaker of the House Carl Albert, a leadership that would be demanded In the interval the heir to the office

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