

NYTimes *Letters to the Editor*

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On the Question of Impeachment

To the Editor:

On the same day, in a recent Philadelphia paper, were the following headlines: "Dow-Jones in Greatest Decline Since 1972" and "Earnings of Publishing Firm Enjoy Sharp Increase." The stock market decline that day was attributed to "herd instinct," which implies a psychological or mood reaction to current negative news.

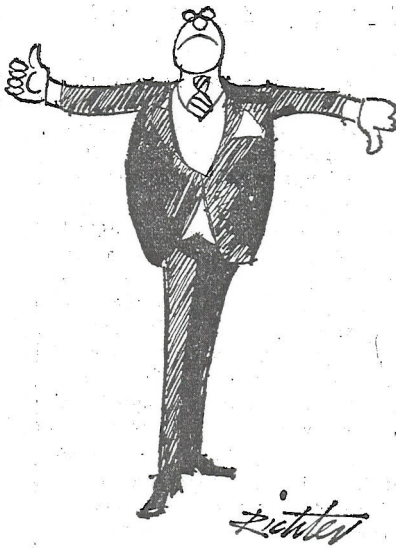
Corporate earnings trends are good, but the market is declining. Tomorrow's news, if of an optimistic nature, could send the Dow-Jones sharply up. The market ebbs and surges with the headlines and the televised news.

The pressing threat of impeachment action against President Nixon appears to be the greatest contributing factor to continued apprehension here and abroad. This is having an unnecessary, serious and damaging effect on the economy and the willingness of business to make what otherwise would be normal commitments for inventories and expansion.

I would speculate that if an announcement would be made by Congressional leaders that impeachment proceedings will not be taken and a call would go out to all Americans to work together toward developing all promising potential of our country, and if this mood would be reflected by the various news outlets, we would experience an immediate upsurge in the markets and in business generally.

There are hundreds of thousands of Americans who recognize President Nixon's positive accomplishments and believe that he was a victim of circumstances and of the actions of subordinates. Because of this, impeachment action would create such a havoc of disunity that it could lead to a national disaster never before experienced in the history of our nation.

The most urgent need of America today is a moratorium on hate and



divisiveness and a combined effort by the President, the Congress, the news media and the public to utilize effectively the strengths, assets and potential of a nation with ample resources for continued growth and development to an extent never before achieved.

RAYMOND M. BEECROFT
Vernon, Vt., Dec. 7, 1973

To the Editor:

Richard Nixon has stated that he will cling fast to his plebiscitary mandate and serve out, come what may, his term of office. It matters little to him that he received no mandate to trample upon and violate the American Constitution.

Long and carefully enumerated lists of impeachable offenses have been prepared by citizen groups from all across the political spectrum. Impeachment now remains the only acceptable way to determine whether Richard Nixon is guilty of these grave charges.

But before the impeachment process,

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which Hamilton called "a method of national inquest into the conduct of public men," can run its full course, Congress will first have to draw upon what in recent times has proved to be a shallow reservoir of nerve and courage.

It will not be easy for Congress to straighten its spine and face the prospect of eradicating what might very well be called the most menacing onslaught of Caesarism this country has known. For as Karl Lowenstein, an astute observer of constitutional crisis, has pointed out: "Once the plebiscitary leader has entrenched himself by Caesaristic exercise of power, the normal constitutional methods of recall do not function—assuming that they really exist and are not just semantic frauds."

"The Caesar cannot be deposed by the constitution because he himself is the constitution. The masses of the people or of the voters do not cling to him because he consistently proves that he can satisfy their desires or needs. Rather, he and his henchmen so completely dominate the coercive apparatus of the state that the people no longer have the means of showing their loss of faith in him."

Whether the impeachment provisions of the Constitution are for all practical purposes simply "semantic frauds" and whether Caesarism will be tolerated as the new political order are the two critical questions Congress must answer one way or the other.

PAUL L. ROSEN
Ottawa, Dec. 5, 1973