

## Editor's Report

# Closing in

By William Randolph Hearst Jr.  
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**SAN SIMEON** — This Sunday, starting my summer vacation after a rugged two-week tour of European news centers, my expectation was to offer some kind of excuse about being exhausted and to cop out of writing a column this week. But my conscience won't let me.



W. R. Hearst Jr.

Even if briefly — and it will be brief — notice has to be taken here of the momentous events which are now sweeping the Watergate story toward its final resolution. At last, after two years, the concluding scenes of a great historical drama are being played out.

The inexorable finality of the awesome impeachment process now in formal operation has had a curious, nation-wide psychological effect. It is almost tangible, this general mood of solemn watching and waiting which suddenly has replaced the

hectic ferment and torment of so many long months.

Even so, supporters of President Nixon — and I have tried to be one as much as possible — may at times in

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recent days have gotten the feeling that the pack of his foes at last is simply closing in for the kill. Very likely he thinks so, and with considerable justification.

Impeachment, after all, has long been the goal of his bitterest political enemies, and it certainly has been the goal of those in the news media who have hounded him so mercilessly while playing down his many remarkable achievements toward world peace.

Double standards repeatedly have been applied by the hunters. Democratic presidents, for example, notoriously have escaped censure for committing the same type of acts for which Nixon is damned by the Democratic majorities in Congress.

Perhaps the worst example involves the case of Daniel Ellsberg. It is pretty ironic to me that Ellsberg, who defied national security regulations by his sneak dissemination of the Pentagon Papers, today is scot free and a hero figure to liberals while the President undergoes impeachment for attempting punitive retaliation.

**For the record** — and this is the major comment to be made here today — my own conviction is that President Nixon does not deserve the impeachment which the House of Representatives now seems sure to vote.

There is no question that his White House was run in an autocratic, high-handed, free-wheeling manner. Its general attitude was that we do what we damned well please. His own attitude, probably born out of his anti-Communist activities, has been that those who are not for me are against me.

Many mistakes thus were made. Abuses of power were committed, whether with or without the President's specific approval. In the final analysis, either way, the mistakes and abuses to me do not add up to sufficient cause for trying to unseat the overwhelmingly elected President of the United States.

Having said that, there is little further for me to add. But it would seem that a majority of Congress doesn't agree, and the impeachment process therefore is officially and legally under way according to the rules laid down by our Founding Fathers.

It is an impressive process indeed — so impressive and so gravely fundamental to our democratic structure that individual comments on the Watergate issues now have become superfluous. Including those made here today.

The time for public debates on the pros and cons of Watergate simply has ended. The matter now has passed into the hands, hearts and conscience of Congress. Now it is only what the lawmakers think that is important.

So now the American people must watch and wait — some eagerly, many with heavy hearts.

It is a national tragedy for the President of the United States — any president — to wind up in the spot now occupied by Richard M. Nixon.