

JUN 2 1972

NYTimes

2 IN G.O.P. PRAISE TIMES PRESSMEN

Action on Impeachment Ad
Cited by Mitchell and Ford

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 1—Two leading Republicans publicly congratulated the pressmen of The New York Times today for their protest against a two-page advertisement, published in The Times yesterday calling for the impeachment of President Nixon.

The praise came from former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, who is directing Mr. Nixon's re-election campaign, and Representative Gerald R. Ford of Michigan, the House Republican leader.

The two men made public statements condemning the contents of the advertisement as "disgusting" and "irresponsible." Mr. Mitchell also raised the question as to whether The Times should have published the ad.

Ad Called 'Traitorous'

The pressmen characterized the advertisement as "traitorous" and "detrimental to the boys in Vietnam and prisoners of war."

The advertisement was paid for by the National Committee for Impeachment. The honorary chairman cited was Ernest Gruening, former Democratic Senator from Alaska, an early opponent of the war in Vietnam. Other supporters named included several lawyers and academic figures.

Mr. Mitchell today made public the text of a telegram to the pressmen commending their "patriotism and responsibility." The advertisement, he said, "reflects, to an extreme degree, the irresponsibility which has all too often characterized many critics of the President's policies."

"The New York Times exercises a control over the material which it prints, including advertisements," he said. "There

re those who would ask whether The Times would publish an equally irresponsible advertisement if it represented another political ideology."

Resolution's Text Included

The advertisement included the text of a proposed impeachment resolution introduced in Congress on May 10. It accused Mr. Nixon of unconstitutional conduct in continuing the war in Indochina and said that he should therefore be tried by the House of Representatives.

The two Republican statements today were prompted both by the ad and by the action of New York Printing Pressmen's Union No. 2, which is headed by Richard Siemers. The pressmen's action delayed the first-edition press run of the Wednesday Times by 15 minutes.

Mr. Ford, a Republican of Michigan, issued a statement denouncing the advertisement as "a disgraceful act which should be revolting to all Americans."

He called attention to the fact that the ad praised nine members of Congress who support impeachment. "It deserves the most widespread condemnation," he said.

Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, the publisher of The Times, issued a statement following the pressmen's action. It said:

"In the service of freedom of expression, our columns must remain open to a wide variety of views, with many of which obviously both we and others will disagree."

Debate Over Ad Proposed

Randolph Phillips, chairman of the executive committee of the National Committee for Impeachment, offered last night to debate Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Ford or Mr. Siemers on the propriety of the advertisement.

Asked about Mr. Siemer's charge that the advertisement was "traitorous" and "detrimental to the boys in Vietnam and prisoners of war," Mr. Phillips said:

"I will debate the proposition that the advertisement in question was, to the contrary, in the highest tradition of Constitutional patriotism and for the protection of the 'boys in Vietnam and prisoners of war.'"

Asked for comment on the praise offered by Mr. Ford and Mr. Mitchell for the pressmen's action in delaying publication of the advertisement, Mr. Phillips said he respected both men as "geniuses of political organization."

SFChronicle

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Nixon Liked Ad Protest

New York

President Nixon sent his thanks yesterday to New York Times pressmen for their protest of a two-page advertisement in Wednesday's paper demanding Mr. Nixon's impeachment.

The pressmen delayed the paper's first run edition for about 15 minutes, according to Richard Siemers, chairman of the Times' chapel of the New York Newspaper Printing Pressman's Union No. 2, to show they "were not a party to" The impeachment call by the national committee for Impeachment.

The ad asked for impeachment on the grounds that Mr. Nixon's Vietnam War policies are unconstitutional and a violation of international law.

Donald F. Rodgers, special consultant to Mr. Nixon for labor affairs presented Siemers with a "personalized" blue and silver pen. Nixon's signature was printed on it.

"You have no idea how good it makes the President feel when good solid American trade unionists voice their opinion on behalf of our government and the men in Vietnam and our prisoners of war in Hanoi," Rodgers told about 50 pressmen and onlookers.

United Press