

Nader: The American people are confronted with a man who has consciously authorized crimes, condoned crimes, committed crimes, covered up crimes, and now has overthrown the legal arrangement which was working to prosecute these crimes fairly and with due process of law.

When that man is the President, such behavior is more than criminal, it is tyrannical. It is more than madness, it is subversion of our government of laws and a plain usurpation of the Constitution. There is no precedent in American history for such singular Presidential depravity and its widespread infection of governmental processes. Mr. Nixon's predatory behaviors are more than differences in degree from past White House excesses. They are differences in kind - broad, deep, systematic, and justified by an ideology of Presidential power whose vector and momentum is toward dictatorship.

The diversity of the Nixon travesty reflects a determination to recognize no limits to its perpetuation of lawless power. From the varied and systematic sabotage of electoral processes to the sale of government to the highest corporate bidders, to the cynical enrichment at public expense of the incumbent, to the harassment of enemies sought [?] through burglaries, forgeries, bribes, illegal wiretapping, to the relentless cover-up of these and many other crimes against the people and against the Constitutional authorities of the legislative and judicial branches of government, Richard Nixon has remained defiantly in office.

Crooked associates have resigned and honorable subordinates have been fired in the course of this single-minded push to salvage his political career. What this most decisive obstruction of justice by Richard Nixon means is that every citizen in this land must strive to reclaim the rule of law which this tyrant has been destroying month by month, strand by strand. It is no longer a task for Americans to delegate, it is an obligation for Americans to assume, in the defense of their country, their Constitution, and a system of government by law and justice which is both their birthright and their precious legacy. Our founders did not oust King George the Third in order for us to suffer King Richard the First.

David Selvin [Pacifica, WX]: Nader also announced this morning that his public lobby, Public Citizen Incorporated, would file suit, challenging Nixon's decision to fire Cox. The suit was explained by Al Morrison, who directs litigation for Public Citizen Incorporated.

Morrison: The lawsuit which we intend to file tomorrow challenges, first, the attempt to remove Special Prosecutor Cox from his position as the special prosecutor. The grounds for this are two-fold. First, that the regulation which creates the office of special prosecutor is still in effect, it has not yet been abolished, and it specifically provides, as Elliot Richardson stated before the Senate, that the person who holds that office may be discharged only "for extraordinary improprieties on his part." We contend that the rule of law requires a finding that there are no extraordinary improprieties, since the only act which is alleged to have been the basis for his firing is his continual insistence on litigating the claim of executive privilege, and the very same regulation specifically authorizes him to determine whether or not "to contest the assertion of executive privilege." The second ground which we are alleging is that the defendant in the lawsuit, who will be Robert Bork, the Acting Attorney General of the United States, is limited in his powers as Acting Attorney General, and that he may not, consistent with those limited, necessary powers, remove the Special Prosecutor, for that may be done only by a duly confirmed Attorney General of the United States, as Elliot Richardson was when he appointed Special Prosecutor Cox.

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