

Mr. Nixon Saves The Constitution



Arthur Hoppe

GOOD EVENING, my fellow Americans. In this hour of grave Constitutional crisis, I want to talk to you tonight about the steps I have taken to meet that crisis. The decisions have not been easy. But it is my sworn duty, as your President, to uphold that Constitution.

As you know, I have done everything humanly possible to avoid this Constitutional crisis. When former Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox sought to subpoena my private and confidential tape recordings, I, like any other citizen, pleaded my case in court.

When Judge Sirica saw fit to rule against me, I, like any other citizen, took my case to the Court to Appeals. When that court also ruled against me, I saw at once that a Constitutional crisis was in the making.

Now it would have been very easy for me to comply with the rulings of those courts. But you did not elect me to take the easy way out.

To uphold the Constitution, which is my sworn duty, I therefore determined to risk contempt proceedings and withhold these tape recordings — which, by the way, prove me totally innocent of any wrongdoing whatsoever.

Being innocent, I also ordered Mr. Cox to stop investigating me. When he stubbornly refused, I had no choice but to order the Attorney General to fire him. And while I had to keep firing Attorneys General until I found one who would fire Mr. Cox, let me point out to you that my perseverance in upholding the Constitution was finally justified.

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NOW THEN, let me turn to the impeachment proceedings pending before the Congress. First, let me say, that, rightly or wrongly, I do not for one moment question Congress' right to institute impeachment proceedings. That right is guaranteed by the Constitution. And I have sworn to safeguard that Constitution.

But let me say this about that. As you know, impeachment proceedings — no

matter how innocent, I, your President may be—are a long and drawn out process. They could last for months or even years. And during that time, my capacity to govern as your President would be severely impaired.

We face many problems today at home and abroad. While we have achieved unparalleled prosperity, we must still fight inflation. While we have achieved peace with honor in Vietnam, we must still face difficult and delicate negotiations to achieve a lasting peace in the Middle East.

So I was forced to ask myself, "Can I, your President, continue to resolve these problems and safeguard the Constitution with my capacity to govern impaired?" I think every decent American would agree, tonight that I could not.

Now it would be very easy for me to go along with these impeachment proceedings. But I had to think first of the good of every American. Therefore, under the powers granted me by the Constitution to summon an emergency session of Congress, I have tonight declared an emergency adjournment of Congress.

And to safeguard our Constitution, I have ordered Federal troops to seal off Capitol Hill, where that Constitution is kept.

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I REALIZE that some critics will say I have fired Congress. This is not the case. Once Congress demonstrates its willingness to work with me in building a better America, I am sure it will be able to resume its duties.

At the same time, I am announcing my resignation as your President. Of course, someone must continue to safeguard our Constitution. I have therefore delegated that responsibility to Crown Prince David Eisenhower, who has pledged to safeguard it night and day.

Long live Princess Julie! Long live Princess Trish! Long live Queen Pat! Long live me!