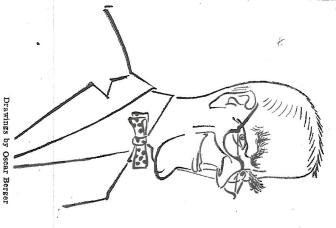
The Nation's on a Slippery Slope

us had long suspected. has defied the laws and the courts, imfantastic weekend that saw the Departbrought into sharp focus what many of ment of Justice stripped of authority peachment is the only recourse. The For the removal of a President who

The President's determination to



secret, with his proposed compromise or about to be tried, shall go free. a sham, shows his clear intent to try to insure that his confederates, indicted hold the tapes and relevant documents vant evidence on which to base their defense is not available and there Their lawyers can claim that the relemust therefore be a mistrial.

lent of the documentary evidence. Archibald Cox made this point in his press conference shortly before he was cutor. Only the documents, or the per-Cox intended to bring. suffice in the series of prosecutions tinent parts of the documents, would fired by the President as special prose-A summary will not be the equiva-

bility have the benefit of a mistrial. mer cabinet officials will in all probasence of relevant evidence, the two fortary of Commerce Maurice Stans, the two Cabinet members indicted in the eral John N. Mitchell and former Secre-Rica frustrated and the plea of the ab-E. Vesco, from his hideout in Costa that this will be their defense. With ef-Vesco affair, have already indicated forts to extradite the principal, Robert Lawyers for former Attorney Gen-

testify to the President's innocence of mans, the Ehrlichmans and the others something like a concerted plot. If this the general atmosphere that infests the Nixon administration. The Haldesounds slightly paranoid put it down to What is happening has the look of

Archibald Cox

cinch this mutual protective society ered his duty. any wrongdoing in Watergate. He in man determined to do what he considand fire Archibald Cox, an honorable makes sure they escape conviction. To turn, by holding back the evidence, the President had to go all the way

order to fire Cox. confirmation hearing. Richardson's deputy, Willaim D. Ruckelshaus followed suit by refusing the President's support of the special prosecutor in his had put his integrity on the line in torney General Elliot Richardson who This triggered the resignation of At-

acquittal.

Democrats to bring about the narrow

er repression of whatever rights may have previously existed. demonstrated, was to guarantee sterngrowing out of these happenings, impeachment proceedings are likely to move swiftly in the House of Repredictatorial societies in the past often sions about the danger of this weapon. To shoot to kill the king and miss, as sentatives. But there should be no illu-With the highly charged emotions

vote a bill of impeachment. But conviccal pressures to save a man and the could bring about acquittal. The politiwhat this means. Thirty-four senators party would be great. by a two-thirds majority. Consider tion in a trial by the Senate must be By a simple majority the House can

a President—that of Andrew Johnson, In the only previous impeachment of

publicans had joined with Johnson cause of the weakness of the case Reshort of the necessary two-thirds. Beconvict in the senate was 35 to 19, one ics played a principal part. The vote to sassination of Abraham Lincoln—politwho succeeded to the office on the as-

fice. President's power—save public opinion. This is to suggest that Nixon ident Agnew and resign from the ofmight follow the example of Vice Preswould be no brake whatsoever on the If he were tried and acquitted there

firmation by the Senate and the House. 2 post. But this is certain to delay conof the man who tapped him for the No. anything else than endorse the action authority can least be afforded due to the uncertainty in the Mideast, the government is in a shambles the future. Vice President-designate Gerald R. Ford could hardly have done and the public shocked and unsure of At a moment when uncertainty of

clubbable character who can hardly be said to have the strong qualities of is Speaker of the House Carl Albert, a this slippery slope is the tragedy herent greatness should find itself any successor. That a nation with leadership that would be demanded In the interval the heir to the office

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