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ACLU Instructs Public About Impeachment

United Press International

The American Civil Liberties Union yesterday made public a handbook listing 17 things that citizens can do to bring about impeachment of President Nixon and six specific offenses against the President which it said could be substantiated.

The 56-page handbook, entitled "Why President Richard Nixon Should Be Impeached," is a followup to a resolution passed Sept. 30 by the ACLU directors calling on Congress to begin impeachment proceedings because of Watergate and the secret bombing of Cambodia in 1969 and 1970.

One goal of the handbook was to explain that impeachment is an indictment voted by the House that results in a trial, with possible conviction or acquittal, by the Senate. "Too many citizens believe that impeachment is an end of the process rather than the beginning," it said.

The checklist of 17 things that a citizen can do to bring about impeachment includes commonplace steps, such as making speeches, talking to clergymen and editors and writing to congressmen.

The ACLU argued its case on the basis of these allegations:

- Watergate testimony of former presidential aides and White House statements indicate President Nixon approved domestic espionage

against demonstrators and alleged national security threats. The ACLU said this violated First amendment rights.

- The President took personal responsibility for the decision to bomb Cambodia, which the ACLU said usurped the war-making power of Congress.

- Watergate testimony and other sources indicate some personal involvement of the President in setting up the so-called "plumbers" operation to plug national security leaks. The ACLU called it a "secret police" that "engaged in criminal acts."

- The President offered a high federal post to the judge presiding over the trial of Daniel Ellsberg on charges of stealing and leaking the Pentagon papers and for a time withheld from the courts his knowledge of the burglary of the office of Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

- Mr. Nixon and his aides "interfered with and distorted the administration of justice" by seeking to limit the FBI investigation of the Watergate break-in.

- Mr. Nixon "has perverted and attempted to pervert" the Justice Department, the National Security Council, the Defense and State Departments and the CIA by "engaging them in political surveillance."