

12/1/73

# IMPEACHMENT

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# Congress is responding to your demand for impeachment--slowly

The bombardment of letters and telegrams received by the Congress last month have pushed them into action.

Impachment proceedings are seriously underway in the House Judiciary Committee. Nevertheless, many members of the House of Representatives are trying to avoid taking a stand. For a variety of political reasons, they, like Richard Nixon, hope to ride out the pressure. The pressure must not subside, however.

There is more than enough evidence right now to make it necessary for the House to draw up Articles of Impeachment and bring Richard Nixon to trial before the Senate. Further investigation and hearings by the House Judiciary Committee are unnecessary. What is necessary is a deliberate determination by the Senate of whether the

actions Nixon has already taken and admitted are to be permitted under our Constitution.

He has admitted that he took actions which obstructed the FBI investigation of the Watergate break-in. He has admitted that he lied to Congress and the American people about the bombing of Cambodia. He has admitted that he created an extra-legal police force, the "plumbers," in the White House who then violated a variety of federal and state laws. He has admitted that he authorized wiretaps that were violations of federal law. He has admitted that he approved an illegal program for political surveillance using such methods as burglary and mail interception.

These facts are not in dispute. All of these admissions can be found in Nixon's own public statements. They alone

represent serious abuses of executive power and yet the House drags its feet. By doing so, they ignore their duty and prolong the agony the American people wish would go away.

The publicly known facts require impeachment now so that these issues may be settled by the Senate. The House of Representatives must not be allowed to evade its duty by delaying action until the "heat is off."

It is time to begin asking direct questions of our Representatives: "How can you agree that these abuses have taken place and not push for impeachment immediately? How can you fail to begin the trial at once that alone can resolve this constitutional crisis?"

If Richard Nixon is not impeached, any future President will be able to point to

these times and rationalize taking the same unlimited powers. If the Bill of Rights can be set aside at will by any President, then they are meaningless.

The movement for impeachment grows out of deep conviction. It is non-partisan and broad-based. Over a million letters and telegrams have already been written to Congress. Besides ACLU, many other organizations, including the 13.5 million member AFL-CIO, are committed to impeachment. We must make our Representatives know that we are staying with it. If you have already written, write again. Make it clear that in the 1974 elections, only those who have done their duty in preserving constitutional government can count on your support. We've made Congress take impeachment seriously. Now we have to make them do it.