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Richardson Here

# A Broad View Of Impeachment

By George Murphy

Elliot Richardson won hearty applause from the largely Republican Commonwealth Club here yesterday when he called for a broader interpretation of the law on presidential impeachment.

Richardson, who held so many government jobs in so short a time that typesetters at Who's Who become nervous at the sound of his name, most recently was U.S. attorney general.

He resigned rather than fire former special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox on instructions from President Nixon.

Speaking to a capacity audience of 1050 in the St. Francis Hotel's Grand Ballroom, Richardson, in response to a question said:

"The House must decide whether 'high crimes and misdemeanors' means violations of the penal code, or more broadly, an abuse of presidential power and authority.

"In my view, the broader interpretation is proper. The (impeachment) proceedings should not be restricted to the technicalities of the Penal Code."

Richardson, now a fellow of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholarship in Washington, was

also warmly applauded when Chairman Donald H. McClaughlin introduced him:

"... after he achieved the status of unemployment, he won worldwide attention and worldwide admiration."

In his remarks to the audience, Richardson called for their entry into "what I call, for lack of a better term, 'New Politics.'"

The New Politics, he said, means treating people as "adult human beings, refus-

ing to kid them, refusing to say 'we know more about solving problems,' when in fact, they don't."

He called for "openness candor, and leveling."

"The politician now knows he has to do it right the first time—if not from his high moral sense, then from his common sense."

The New Politics also must admit an awareness of the complexity of government. "Anyone who tells you he knows it all, is not aware. The politician who plays the angles is sure to get cut."

He was asked, following his remarks, if he thought President Nixon should resign.

"To answer that question now would be premature.

"First, all the facts must be made available to the special prosecutor and the congressional committees.

"Then only after they have been satisfied that everything possible has been done to obtain evidence, would be the time to consider the question of the president's responsibility."

At a press conference held before his speech, Richardson said in response he thought to a question about whether erasures on a White House tape were done at the White House:

"You have to consider that as a possible explanation... perhaps the only explanation.

He was asked if he will seek the 1976 Republican presidential nomination.

"No," he replied, but when asked if he were "ruling it out completely," also answered, "No."