Ex-Nixon Aide Is For Impeachment

AP Wirephoto
JOHN K. ANDREWS
'It's the saddest subject'

Washington

John K. Andrews Jr., a former speechwriter and aide to President Nixon, said yesterday that President Nixon should be impeached.

Andrews, who resigned in December, said the question of Mr. Nixon's impeachment is one "that I approach with terrible reluctance."

"And it's the saddest subject that I feel I've ever had to consider as a citizen of this country," Andrews said. "But with that reluctance, I'd have to say yes . . .".

Andrews, who served Mr. Nixon for four years, called for the President's impeachment in an interview of a program of National Public Affairs Center for Television, "Washington straight talk."

He is the first former White House aide to publicly recommend impeachment.

"And so, as painful as it would be for the country, I think that to preserve our self-respect as a democracy . . . the public trust must not be abused, whether by omission as he has done it, or by overt commission," Andrews said. "It must not be abused."

Andrews said he does not think that Mr. Nixon will resign "because he believes sincerely that he has done no wrong, that he is a man persecuted."

He said that Mr. Nixon has been terribly treated by political partisans and by some elements in the press.

But, Andrews added: "I'm afraid that the President's own worst enemy in this situation has been himself and elements in himself of a certain defensiveness, a stubbornness, a resistance to the idea of cutting his losses and making a fresh start."

Andrews said his reading of Mr. Nixon's character does not lead him to believe the President is guilty of criminal wrongdoing.

"I think that he . . . is chargeable or must be held responsible for political offenses, not criminal offenses; of abuse of power or permitting power he delegated to be abused, offenses, as I say, of negligence or derelection in seeing that the laws are faithfully executed."

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