

Neil MacNeil (chief congressional correspondent, Time Mag):

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What's happened now, I think, is that there has been a new sort of tactical ploy in the basic White House plan, as seen by the [Judiciary] Committee. And that is, they now suspect that the President's attorney and the President's people are in effect trying to ignite the hotheads on the committee, the flaming Democratic liberals who want to impeach the President yesterday.

A number of things have taken place since we met here last week. One is that St. Clair, the President's lawyer, released a confidential letter, which very much upset the committee members - they had not themselves seen it, the confidential parts of it. Mr. Ziegler was trotted out to make essentially offensive remarks, as Congress took it, about backing trucks up to the White House to clean the place out of materials. It seems the committee suspects that what they're trying to do, what the White House is trying to do, is to precipitate the committee to subpoena the papers, to be followed by a refusal to honor the subpoena, to be followed by a premature movement to impeach. And that movement, presumably, would fail, and therefore everything would be [garbled - done away with?] and the impeachment process would be over.

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