



Mr. Nixon's Last Crisis

News Item: The President's chief lawyer denied Mr. Nixon had violated the law against withholding knowledge of a felony — even though he failed to tell law enforcement officers that hush money was paid to the Watergate burglars.

"The President is the chief law enforcement officer in the country," said attorney James D. St. Clair.

Therefore, the President fulfilled the law's requirements, St. Clair implied, by reporting knowledge of the felony to himself.

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MY FELLOW AMERICANS, I address you tonight at a moment of grave national crisis. As you know, the Senate today saw fit to convict me in its impeachment proceedings. That is their right and I do not for one minute deny them that right.

The question we must face tonight, my fellow Americans, is what steps we shall take in this emergency. Our Constitution, I am glad to be able to report to you, makes one thing perfectly clear. Upon impeachment and conviction, the President — and let me read this to you verbatim — "shall be removed from office."

Now that is the law and, as you know, I have sworn, rightly or wrongly, to uphold the law.

I, therefore, immediately conferred with myself in my capacity as Chief Law Enforcement Officer on how best to remove myself from this office.

The Chief Law Enforcement Officer advised me that I can be removed bodily either by Federal Marshals or U.S. troops — but, unfortunately, Federal Marshals have received no training whatsoever in presidential removal.

I immediately called upon the Commander in Chief, which is also myself, to order a contingency force of American troops to remove me from office. However, the Commander in Chief, I think rightly, strongly urged against such a course on the grounds that a display of military might at this critical point would only tend to inflame the crisis rather than relieve it.

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I AGAIN searched through the Constitution. I found that I may be removed because of physical or mental incapacity. Here, I hoped, might lie a way out of this dilemma.

As Chief Medical Officer, I subjected myself to a rigorous physical examination. As Chief Director of Mental Health in this great land of ours, I put myself through exhaustive psychological testing. I passed — and let me be perfectly candid about this — both tests with flying colors.

One alternative remained. I called upon myself as Chief Executive Officer to carefully and painstakingly review the case against me and render, insofar as humanly possible, a fair and impartial verdict.

The Chief Executive Officer, at my bidding, has done precisely this. And I am happy to report to you tonight that the crisis over my removal from office has been at last resolved. I have been granted. I am proud to say, Executive Clemency.

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THERE WILL BE those, my fellow Americans, who will undoubtedly attempt to subvert the steps I have taken to uphold the Constitution in this national emergency.

I have, therefore, asked the Commander in Chief to deploy troops around Capitol Hill to preserve our cherished Constitution. I have every reason to believe the Commander in Chief will cooperate fully with me in this hour of national peril. And I expect every decent American will do likewise, God willing.

Thank you and good night.