

**John D. Lofton**

# Nixon Deserves A Break Today

Washington

UP TO NOW, I did not think Richard Nixon would be impeached. But then, up to now, I did not know about "the McDonald's Cheeseburger Case."

I ran across this bombshell on page 80 of "The Offenses of Richard M. Nixon: A Guide for the People of the United States of America." A brief for impeachment bankrolled by ex-McGovern fat cat Stewart Mott, the book was put together by four lawyers — one of whom is William Dobrovir, the Ralph Nader attorney who played a subpoenaed presidential tape at a Washington cocktail party.

The book contains a wide variety of serious allegations against Mr. Nixon but none has the potential for toppling our Chief Executive like the charge of hamburger-helping at the highest level.



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LISTED UNDER the heading, "Crimes Committed in Financing President Nixon's Re-election," the facts of the case are as follows:

On November 14, 1971, McDonald's, the large and well-known chain of drive-in restaurants, raised its price for the Quarter Pounder Cheeseburger from 59 cents to 65 cents without notification to or authorization from the U.S. Price Commission.

On May 31, 1972, the commission ordered McDonald's to reduce the price of its Quarter Pounder Cheeseburger. On September 8, 1972, the Price Commission reversed its decision and granted McDonald's a final price increase to 63 cents for the Quarter Pounder Cheeseburger.

Up to now, nothing, right? But then the four legal beagles nail Nixon cold, revealing, and I quote, that according to General Accounting Office records:

"Between May 31, 1972, and September 8, 1972, the Chairman of the Board (these words are underlined) of McDonald's Corporation, Ray A. Kroc, contributed over \$200,000 to the campaign to re-elect President Nixon. Mr. Kroc's final total later went up to \$225,000."

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NOW, TO THOSE few die-hard, knee-jerk Nixon supporters who don't immediately see the high crime, the bribe, the misdemeanor or treason committed here, I wish I could offer you some encouragement.

To those who think that at best, "The McDonald's Cheeseburger Case" appears to be an open and shut matter, I wish it were true. But Dobrovir and his fellow lawyers appear to have an airtight case. They explain it all later in their book in a section titled, "President Nixon's Criminal Liability."

"It is a basic principle of criminal law that one individual can be guilty of a specific criminal act committed by someone else if certain conditions exist. Such conditions include: (1) If he was part of — in particular the head of — a group or organization whose member committed the act; (2) if the act was in pursuit of an aim or purpose of the organization (3) if he benefitted or was expected to benefit from the commission of the act, or (4) if he established the general purposes and aims the criminal act was intended to promote. These are familiar principles of conspiracy and aiding or abetting or complicity. They apply squarely to the charges against Richard M. Nixon."

Besides, Dobrovir and his colleagues already have what they consider to be corroborating evidence. In mid-January, when the President was in San Clemente, there were news reports that he and Bebe Rebozo were out driving and stopped to get something to eat. And do you remember where it was they stopped? McDonald's!

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IN ADDITION, there have been rumors on Capitol Hill that the President proposed a lower minimum wage for young people specifically to benefit McDonald's, which employs a lot of teenagers.

Add to these things the fact that the price of a Quarter Pounder Cheeseburger has now soared to 70 cents, and the case is, as I said, airtight.

Once the House Judiciary Committee gets hold of the White House tapes covering May 31, 1972 through September 8, 1972, it's all over. The controversy involving John Dean and the million dollars in hush money will pale into insignificance when Committee Chairman Representative Peter Rodino flips on the recorder, and the President says to Ray Kroc: "Raising the price of the Quarter Pounder Cheeseburger would be no problem."

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