

A Non-partisan Letter to the American People

This remarkable, courageous and truthful non-partisan letter was written by Hon. Otto E. Passman, a distinguished Democratic Member of the present House of Representatives. He has served there for 26 years and is one of its outstanding members.

It should be read by everyone interested in fairness regarding the Watergate issue and the preservation of the Presidency and our constitutional government. No party has a monopoly of virtue or patriotism.

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

November 1, 1973, revised May 1, 1974

My Fellow Americans:

Facts As A Democrat Understands Them

Without intending to be offensive, the record should be put in the proper perspective. In doing so, it will be necessary to refer to certain unpleasant incidents of the past and recognize that some of the prospective presidential candidates of today must conceal the past records of some Democrats as well, otherwise, embarrassing incidents will shine through even with the radical segment of the news media assisting in obliterating past incidents.

THE RADICAL ELEMENT OF THE NEWS MEDIA CAN, WHEN SO DETERMINED, TAKE THE GREATEST PUBLIC OFFICIAL IN AMERICA, PUT HIM IN THE GUTTER AND CONVINCING A MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE THAT HE IS A CROOK. THE SAME SEGMENT OF THE NEWS MEDIA CAN TAKE THE BIGGEST PHONY IN AMERICA AND MAKE HIM APPEAR SUPERIOR TO A COMBINATION OF EINSTEIN AND SOLOMON. WE ARE SEEING THIS HAPPEN IN AMERICA TODAY. LET US LOOK AT THE RECORD:

1 — When Judas betrayed Christ, he had his followers, and according to Biblical history his views were effective, but we all know now that those claims did not alter the facts of what Christ represented and why he was sent here and finally crucified by those who followed Judas's thinking. I mention this as an example and not for the purpose of comparison.

2 — When it was reported that certain segments of the Democratic Party (and there is available information to support this contention) stole the election from Richard M. Nixon in 1960 by the manipulation of the votes in New Mexico, Illinois and probably Texas, did the Republicans try to impeach and destroy President Kennedy for the actions of certain segments of the Democratic Party? The answer is no!

3 — When Senator Lyndon Johnson's trusted aide, Mr. Jenkins, got caught in an act of indecency, did the Republicans jump on Senator Johnson? No! When President Johnson's aide, Mr. Jenkins, again got caught in a similar situation, did the Republicans make this a public issue and try to involve Mr. Johnson, including the threat of impeachment? The answer is no!

4 — Of course, as unpleasant as it is to mention the episodes of Billy Sol Estes, Bobby Baker and others, I cannot find where the Republicans exploited these issues in trying to destroy Democratic candidates for any public office. Therefore, it is wrong to try to destroy our President through innuendo and false accusations about incidents which he had nothing to do with.

5 — I say without equivocation or mental reservation that in my considered judgment, President Richard M. Nixon's integrity is unimpeachable. His greatness has been established — so much so that certain segments of the Democratic Party, of which I am a member, and for political reasons, are trying to destroy his greatness. Does it not appear that there are prejudiced judges who, through a subconscious urging, may be making themselves a party to the scheme to destroy President Nixon, and acting as prosecutors rather than judges!

6 — When Mr. Nixon was sworn in as President, we were in the midst of one of the most destructive and expensive wars our nation had ever been engaged in. Evidently, President Johnson could not develop a formula to conclude the war so he left the White House a broken-hearted man, and I believe that President Johnson felt he was turning the nation over to a man who had the ability and determination to conclude this terrible war that was claiming 300 precious American lives weekly. Could this have so embarrassed the Democrats that they are trying to blot out this great accomplishment?

7 — When Mr. Nixon was sworn in, there were 543,000 troops in Vietnam; the cost of the war was running at \$32 Billion a year; and there were no plans to conclude the war. However, Mr. Nixon quickly formulated a plan to conclude the war that started under a Democratic Administration. Not only did he live up to every promise he had made and reduce the number of troops in Vietnam from 543,000 to zero, he secured the release of all of our prisoners of war who were deteriorating in dungeons in far-off lands. My, my but what an accomplishment for a great American President.

8 — When Mr. Nixon was sworn in as president, crime was running rampant in this country we love so much. He is slowly but surely bringing crime under control. Will this trend be reversed by present-day court decisions? What is the explanation for a judge to sentence a man to 35 years in prison for the Watergate break-in, a crime that was not an act of personal violence, and in the same city or perhaps in the same court, a prejudiced judge released those who have confessed to armed robbery, rape and arson, maybe with the trial judges blaming society for the criminal acts. Where is justice?

9 — When Mr. Nixon was sworn in as President, the Supreme Court was so distorting the Constitution by erroneous interpretations, that they were turning our nation into a socialistic state. Mr. Nixon is replacing such Justices with men who render opinions based upon the Constitution, and such a court will ultimately benefit all Americans.

10 — When President Nixon assumed command, he recognized that China with its 800 million population, representing 25% of the total population of the world, was developing in every sense, even in the nuclear field, at an unbelievable pace. He knew that for the preservation of our nation we could not afford to permit China to affiliate with the Russians. His decision to go to Peking and establish a friendly relationship with China will keep them out of the Russian orbit and could prove to be the greatest decision ever made by an American President. History will take care of this accomplishment adequately.

11 — Mr. Nixon is trying hard to put our fiscal affairs back on a business basis, but somehow without exception, every time he moves in that direction the liberals and socialistic-minded try to embarrass him and stop him, and in too many instances they have been successful.

12 — May I refer you to the infamous Daniel Ellsberg. He gave top secret documents and papers to the left-wing press and doubtless others. Instead of being convicted of a crime, what happened? A liberal judge set him free without a completed trial. Where has he been recently? In Washington, appearing before a Senate committee receiving almost a hero's welcome. What is going on in our country? Look at those who are trying to destroy our President! Do you wish to turn this country over to the type of people who by majority nominated George McGovern as the Democratic nominee in Miami. We are in trouble in this country. We are being misled, and some of our best people are having their minds slowly but surely shaped by prejudiced commentators, and the radical segment of the news media. From experience, I can tell you that America's national broadcasters are obliterating anything favorable to our President, spending their time clouding issues, making false accusations and, in some instances, downright misrepresentations. Listen to some of these broadcasters for verification of this statement.

13 — I do not condone what some of President Nixon's aides have done, but remember that they did not break into Democratic Headquarters looking for silver or gold. It was a political act. Doubtless, they were looking for political information, perhaps trying to find out how the people who later appeared in Miami to support McGovern had gotten control of the Democratic Party. Without attempting to defend their actions, these actions did not involve the security of our country. I am thoroughly convinced that President Nixon had no knowledge whatsoever of the Watergate break-in. Let us prosecute the guilty, but not involve our President when there is no indication that he had any knowledge of their actions.

14 — Now, how about Archibald Cox? He is a liberal Democrat. He was Solicitor General in the Cabinet of President John F. Kennedy. When Mr. Nixon appointed him Special Prosecutor, he thought that this man would be fair and impartial and would ferret out the truth, but what happened? It would appear that this liberal Democrat evidently had one thing in mind and that was to destroy Richard M. Nixon, and no doubt try to help elect former President John F. Kennedy's brother, Ted Kennedy, to the Presidency. Why did former Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox spend time talking with Ted Kennedy while he was investigating? When the U.S. Court of Appeals sustained the lower court, in effect it said to our President, comply with the decision or offer an acceptable compromise. As we read the record, we see where Senator Ervin, Senator Baker, the Attorney General and the President had reached a compromise and had prepared to submit it to Judge Sirica. We are also led to believe that Judge Sirica would have accepted the compromise, enabling the President to protect the confidentiality of the Presidency, but then this liberal, vindictive Democrat, Archibald Cox, balked. So the President had to fire him.

May I say again I believe deeply, based upon facts, that President Richard M. Nixon's integrity is unimpeachable. It is almost unbelievable that this great man has been able to accomplish so much for America with the prejudiced commentators, the radical element of the news media, the Communists and other left-wingers out to destroy him. President Nixon's troubles began when he started fighting Communism and with his success in putting Alger Hiss in jail.

I could have remained silent during this crisis had I been a political coward, thinking only of the Democratic Party and my personal political interests. Certainly I would have been spared some criticism, but to have been silent would have violated every principle by which I have lived my life. I sincerely believe that in the end right will prevail — if not before man — certainly before God, and I am just as convinced that in the end the position I have taken in support of my President will be the correct one.

Repeating, at no time has President Nixon been in noncompliance with the laws of our land. However, our great President, because of public pressure and the misunderstanding of the American public, including some members of the Judiciary, is on the verge of being forced to violate his obligation by revealing highly sensitive and confidential information. It is to be regretted that some members of the Judiciary do not look at executive privilege in the same manner as lawyer and client privilege, confidential audience between priest and parishioner and highly confidential conversations between man and wife. Again where is justice and reason, and how far will the lunatic fringe go to destroy a great President?

I am a lifelong Democrat, but I am an American first. I shall support right as I understand it. I am proud that my President has the courage, wisdom and determination to do what is right, knowing well that his greatness will shine as a bright example to generations yet unborn, and when finally he has gone to his reward, hundreds of millions of people throughout the world will know that this world is indeed a better place in which to live for President Nixon's having lived in it.

Finally, may I urge you to read the Constitution of the United States and then ponder this question prayerfully. **WHAT CRIME HAS OUR GREAT PRESIDENT COMMITTED TO WARRANT THE ABUSE HEAPED UPON HIM BY LUNATICS, LIBERALS AND BLOODTHIRSTY HATERS AND IN MANY INSTANCES, MISGUIDED GOOD AMERICANS?** Please do your duty and get your communication off to leaders of the House of Representatives, protesting the unwarranted action that a few propose.

Sincerely,
OTTO E. PASSMAN
Member of Congress

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OPERATION FREEDOM
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Hon. Hamilton Fish, President

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No elected or party office-holders included and no members of the clergy, because there are many different creeds.