

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*The Judiciary Committee Proceedings*

As I listened and viewed the historic debate within the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives in connection with the serious question of the impeachment of a President, I was struck with what might be termed as a positive side effect unrelated to the central issue. What amazed me was the professionalism and statesmanship, the exemplary demeanor and utter lack of Shakespearian center-staging by the committee members in this great moment of history.

I must confess that heretofore I had the mistaken notion that the House of Representatives consisted of lackluster lambs who lost their way until their next election, a scant two years hence. (Perhaps their term in office should be four years.)

Thus, I have concluded that the members of the House by virtue of their close proximity to their constituents can accomplish greater deeds as it affects the immediate neighborhood in which they live and can also guide the destiny of our nation as a whole. Belatedly I hold the "Lower House" in the highest esteem.

JOHN T. O'HARA.

Washington.

I was horrified hearing Congressman Larry Hogan's public announcement stating his position in regard to the manner in which he would vote on the pending impeachment hearing before the Judiciary Committee acted. This, in my opinion, is not proper of one charged with hearing all the evidence and listening attentively to the pro and con arguments.

A student of the democratic process would have awaited the vote of the Committee before expressing his personal view so that the accused would be assured of a fair and impartial hearing.

W. HILL BROWN JR.

Manassas.

Those who sneer at Congressman Hogan's decision to vote for impeachment as "just a political act" motivated by his campaign for governor show a fundamental misunderstanding of our political system.

Undoubtedly Congressman Hogan has found in his campaign that a vote for impeachment is the wiser political course because, as the public opinion polls show, the majority of people are indeed in favor of impeachment. But that is the way the democratic process is supposed to operate; a major function of election campaigns is to get politicians and the public in touch with one another. Rep. Hogan should be commended for not remaining unswervingly steadfast to President Nixon out of some sense of personal loyalty but rather adjusting his position to meet the will of the people whom he represents.

SUSAN GROSS.

Washington.

Muse exultantly on the amount of media coverage Larry Hogan would have received had he come out against impeachment.

MARJORIE WELLS.

Silver Spring

On the evidence and in the best long term interests of the Republican party Representative Hogan made the right decision.

JAMES H. INGLIS.

Silver Spring.

I listened with disbelief and distress to the comments of Rep. Wiley Mayne (R-Iowa) in his defense of President Nixon before the House Judiciary Committee. Is impugning the honesty and integrity of a former—indeed, deceased—President of the United States the way to judge the guilt or innocence of a sitting President of the United States? Mr. Mayne's rambling discourse against Lyndon B. Johnson—a man unable to answer—and inferences of dishonest behavior on his part—was particularly tasteless.

Let us assume, hypothetically, that Mr. Johnson somehow wrongly used his offices to gain fortune while in the service of the people. Does that make Mr. Nixon's alleged transgressions any less tragic, serious or despicable?

Was Mr. Johnson ever charged with perjury or suborning perjury or obstructing justice? Was Mr. Johnson ever accused of using governmental agencies for his own political purposes? Did Mr. Johnson ever have

to stand before the country and plead: "I am not a crook?" I suggest that Mr. Mayne was a sitting member of Congress during part of the Johnson administration. Why didn't he then question Mr. Johnson's behavior, even institute an investigation of wrongdoing?

Now, suddenly, 10 years later he invokes the President's name and implies misbehavior on his part. His obvious political motives are arrogant and tasteless.

NORMAN H. OSHRIN.

Washington.

Even if nothing else is learned from the proceedings before the House Judiciary Committee, we should all take special notice of the role of John Doar and Albert E. Jenner, Jr., the two principal lawyers for the Committee. In a case darkly besmirched by lawyers' misconduct, their bright performance flashes through with a much needed reminder of what lawyering is all about. The energy they have devoted to the task of amassing and assessing the evidence is remarkable. Most of all, the imperturbable integrity and insistent, clear-headed detachment they have displayed in evaluating difficult material restates the ideal goal for all lawyers. Jenner is such a straight arrow that the minority members of the Committee have quit trying to adjust their partisan instincts to his presence. He is just too square to fit into the usual political mold.

Here in Massachusetts, those of us who practice regularly in the courts are used to such characters. The local Watergate types, fortunately, are quite rare. It is particularly pleasing to realize that they also grow our kind of lawyer in the newer mid-western states from which Doar and Jenner come.

EDWARD J. BARSHAK,  
Boston Bar Association,  
President.

Boston.

President Nixon hasn't got a chance in the impeachment circus taking place. The news media has done a thorough job of brain-washing the public and one can bet that Congress will take every advantage of this to insure their jobs. It is one heck of a way to treat a man who has accomplished so much in such a short time. May I remind you and that brain-washed public, that he brought an end to the killing of our men in Vietnam, brought the POWs home, with honor; not to mention the role he played in the Mid-east cease fire. Whether you like it or not, that is history. Here at home he is trying to tame a runaway economy with little or no cooperation from labor, management or Congress, which means you and me.

We ought to thank God that we have such a man as President Nixon, and stop placing obstacles in his path. How the man has withstood the constant, sadistic harassment by the news media is a major miracle. That is what irks the liberals most, the fact that they can't wear him down. What a great man he is!

MARGERY C. GORDON.

Washington.

Presidential spokesman Ron Ziegler keeps insisting that the House Judiciary Committee is trying "to do a public relations job on the President."

How would he know? If Mr. Ziegler knew anything about public relations, he would have counseled his boss at the time of the Watergate break-in to do what effective public relations practitioners do when they are faced with embarrassing news: get the facts and get them out fast. Suffer the bad publicity over one or two days, not one or two years, and don't leave the public with the impression that you have something to hide.

And if Mr. Nixon had hired someone from the ranks of public relations, not advertising, to advise him, he likely would have gotten such advice.

In any case, no less an authority on White House affairs than Bebe Rebozo has admitted what many of us have long guessed: that Ron Ziegler is an alright young fellow, but he doesn't know much about public relations. Or, as humorist Art Buchwald put it at the Holy Cross College commencement: "Ron Ziegler has done for credibility what The Boston Strangler did for door-to-door salesmen."

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