

TEN RIGHTEOUS MEN COULD HAVE SAVED SODOM HOW MANY WILL IT TAKE TO SAVE THE UNITED STATES?

Those members of the House Judiciary Committee who recommended articles of impeachment in fact impeached only themselves. So it is that, in the inkblot tests used by psychologists, violent minds see violent pictures, morbid minds see death, and guileful minds perceive treachery. So it is, on occasion, that jurors find a man guilty because, placed in that man's situation, they themselves would surely have committed crimes. One so often sees in others only the mirrored reflection of his own failings. One projects upon others one's own lust for evil, just as some members of the Judiciary Committee have projected all their personal shortcomings upon President Nixon with a show of mental anguish fits for the occasion.

THEY ARE TO BE PITIED AS MUCH AS CENSURED. If political life has hardened their spirits and calloused their sensitivity so much that they no longer can feel the humanity that underlies the White House tapes, then a merciful public should guarantee their retirement to private life, where they may restore their shriveled notion of justice and mend their shattered sense of fairness.

Not all those who advocated impeachment within the Committee are equally to blame. There are leaders and followers among them, the actively and passively malicious. Mr. Donohue of Massachusetts, who introduced the impeachment resolves, found himself for the first time in the national spotlight. In him we see what unleashed political ambition could do to us all if we allowed ourselves to be moulded by it.

And yet, he is only a novice to the masters of impeachment: to Tip O'Neill, Majority Leader of the House, who hovers in the background, and more than any other individual is responsible for this week's tragedy; to Robert Drinan, whose clerical wardrobe, worn with dignity by others, cannot conceal the leftist ideologue beneath it; to John Conyers, who long ago said in public that his role would be to keep Chairman Rodino from being "too damn fair." The irony of it all! On the day when the Supreme Court, in a case involving Detroit, ruled against the destruction of local school systems through forced combination of city and suburban school districts, John Conyers of Detroit sits in judgment upon the President who appointed four of the five men who made that decision! He dares not strike at them, but he can smear the very President whose judicial appointments have turned the Court away from socialism and permissiveness.

The impeachers' evidence has been as shallow as their credibility. Time and again, they repeat like an incantation the President's purported remark, "I want you to stonewall it." How many times have you heard that quotation from the transcripts repeated by newsmen? And how often have you heard them quote the second half of that same statement: "But I'd rather it be done the other way." No, the evidence does not lie except where those who lie cite the evidence.

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