

...and Other Issues

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Two other proposed articles failed to clear the House Judiciary Committee. It was unfortunate that the debate Tuesday on Article IV, referring to the secret bombing of Cambodia, was allowed to digress into a futile argument over the whole purpose and conduct of the Vietnam war. Sponsors of this article tried vainly to explain that the war itself was not at issue; the alleged impeachable offense was the President's deception of the Congress by misleading and downright false testimony concerning American military operations. This issue deserves a better airing when the full House debates the articles of impeachment.

Finally came a half-hearted attempt to impeach the President for the irregularities in his personal income tax returns. This issue has probably aroused public interest more directly than any other, but only with difficulty could it be stretched into an impeachable offense—revealing though it may be of the President's cynical attitude toward the responsibilities of citizenship. In any event, if there was fraud involved—and the issue is still open—there will be a time for adjudication through the normal statutory process.

With chilling clarity, the concluding phrases of each of the three proposed articles of impeachment sum up the view of the House committee and, we believe, of most Americans of every political persuasion:

"In all of this, Richard M. Nixon has acted in a manner contrary to his trust as President and subversive of constitutional government, to the great prejudice of the cause of law and justice and to the manifest injury of the people of the United States."