## Transcript of the Statement by Rhodes

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Following is the transcript of a stement yesterday by Representative John J. Rhodes Representative John J. Rhodes of Arizona, the House minor-ity leader, telecast from the House Judiciary Committee hearing room in Washington, as recorded by The New York Times Times:

Ladies and gentlemen, for me this is a sad day. I admire Richard Nixon for

many great things he has done for the people of Amer-ica and the people of the world.

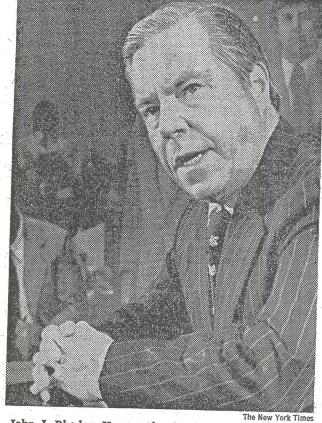
I have no doubts whatever that the final analysis of his-tory will be that few Ameri-can Presidents did more for the solid advancement of world peace than did Richard Nivon

Nixon, But the most important aspect of our entire system of government is "equal jus-tice "nder the law," the principle and no person, whether he be ach or poor, black or while ordinary citizen or President is above the law.

Cover-up of criminal activ-ity and misuse of Federal agencies can neither be con-doned nor tolerated. And as

doned nor tolerated. And as long as we adhere as a nation to this principle our nation will remain great and strong. I have considered all the evidence to the best of my ability. When the roll is called in the House of Repre-sentatives, I will vote "aye" on impeachment Article I. In addition, the new evidence made available yesterday has considerable bearing on my decision concerig Article 2, a decisio which I have not yet finalized.

a decisio which I have not yet finalized. I make my judgment as a lawyer, as a person with some acquaintance with the Constitution and as a mem-ber Congress from Ari-



John J. Rhodes, House minority leader, announcing at news conference he would vote for impeachment

zona, Others may interpret the evidence differently. This requires a highly personal decision.

decision. I still believe that impeach-ment is not a party matter. It is strictly a matter of conscience. Thus I have no intention of imposing my interpretation of the evidence on any other member of Congress. For a party leader to attempt to dictate a mat-ter of individual conscience would be entirely ill-advised.

The past year has been a difficult priod for the Ameri-can people. However we have come through it with our fundamental belief in justice and the law intact. As was said by President Dwight David Eisenhower, America is great because America is good, and if America ceases to be good, America will cease to be great. I have every confidence that America will remain both great and good.