

Helen Douglas on Impeaching



HELEN G. DOUGLAS
A logical conclusion

Fairlee, Vt.

Helen Gahagan Douglas, whose political career was cut short by Richard Nixon in 1950, said yesterday she is sorry the impeachment process may not proceed to its logical conclusion in the U.S. Senate.

Mrs. Douglas, the wife of actor Melvyn Douglas, lost the 1950 Senate race in California to Mr. Nixon who two years later was chosen by Dwight D. Eisenhower as his running mate. The Nixon-Douglas campaign was one of the most bitter in California history, with Nixon tactics allegedly linking Democratic candidate Mrs. Douglas to Communist causes.

Yesterday, she emphasized she was more concerned about the long-range implications of the constitutional crisis.

Mrs. Douglas said an impeachment hearing in the Senate, where Mr. Nixon would have been found guilty or innocent, "would have educated us as to what a president can do and cannot do; what a congress must do and must not give up . . . if we are to retain our freedom."

She said the continuation of impeachment proceedings would not be to further humiliate Richard Nixon — "that's dumb" — but to help Congress make the necessary corrections to prevent another Administration operating above the law "as this Administration has."

Mrs. Douglas said the Nix-

on campaign of 1972 followed the pattern of the California campaign of 1950 as well as Mr. Nixon's strategy in that state in a congressional race against Jerry Voorhis and his ill-fated campaign against former Governor Edmund G. Brown — "anything was justified if it brought success."

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