Last in a Series

The Case for Impeachment Of Richard M. Nixon — Now

Richard M. Nixon has committed an impeachable offense by violating the Constitution of the United States which he swore to uphold, and which commands him to see that the laws "be faithfully executed."

The President has:

- Engaged in a calculated campaign to hide from the American people, the courts, the Congress and the Special Prosecutor the full facts about Watergate and the coverup.

- Violated the constitutional and civil rights of the American people by initiating and establishing a secret police force to conduct domestic surveillance, espionage, wiretapping, eavesdropping, burglary and the opening of mail. He then deliberately raised the "smokescreen" of national security to hide the illegal activities of the "plumbers."

- Abused the power of the presidency by seeking to use the White House, the Justice Department, the Internal Revenue Service and other government agencies to punish political enemies.

- Violated the constitutional guarantee of freedom of the press by means of wiretaps, FBI investigations and threats of punitive action against the news media and individual reporters.

- Broken faith with the American people by demanding that Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox, to whom he had earlier pledged full cooperation, curtail his investigation. He then fired Cox for refusing to obey this order. This firing forced the Attoney General and the Deputy Attorney General to resign in protest.

- Personally intervened on behalf of ITT in a Supreme Court case, after which ITT contributed to his campaign.

- Permitted his subordinates, for whose actions he has accepted full responsibility, to illegally involve both the FBI and the CIA in the coverup of the Watergate break-in.

- Reversed a government decision and raised milk price supports two days after a White House meeting with dairy industry representatives who had pledged a substantial campaign contribution and after he knew of that contribution.

In each and every one of these instances, previously documented in this series, the President sought to put himself above the law.

He has sought to do this by deceit and obstruction. Two of the subpoenaed tapes were never produced. Now the American people learn that 18 minutes was erased from one key tape he sought to deny the Special Prosecutor and the courts. Recording experts named by the court testified that at least five separate acts were performed to erase the key Nixon-Haldeman discussion three days after Watergate. The experts swore that Rose Mary Woods's explanation, that she might have mistakenly used the foot pedal while telephoning, did not square with the facts.

On October 22, 1973, the AFL-CIO convention unanimously declared:

"We believe that the American people have had enough. More than enough.

"We therefore call upon Richard Nixon, President of the United States, to resign.

"We ask him to resign in the interest of preserving our democratic system of government, which requires a relationship of trust and candor between the people and their political leaders.

"We ask him to resign in the interest of restoring a fully functioning government, which his Administration is too deeply in disarray to provide.

"We ask him to resign in the interest of national security."

The AFL-CIO still firmly believes that the greatest service Richard M. Nixon can now perform for the American people is to resign.

He has repeatedly refused to do so. Members of his own party, responsible leaders of the American Bar Association, newspapers and magazines that supported his candidacy, have all urged him to resign. He has rejected their pleas.

Thus America faces no other alternative than impeachment.

There is no other way for the President to get his day in court.

There is no other way in which America can get the whole truth about the scandals that have characterized the Nixon presidency.

Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives, which govern House procedure, declares:

"Impeachment may be based on offenses of a political character, on gross betrayal of public interests, inexcusable neglect of duty, tyrannical abuse of power and offenses of conduct tending to bring the office into disrepute."

Richard M. Nixon is guilty of all of these and merits impeachment.

The AFL-CIO convention noted, and we repeat:

"Impeachment is not a prospect we contemplate with pleasure. No decent American can derive any partisan satisfaction whatever from the misfortune of his nation. And surely the American labor movement is not interested in aiding any reckless attacks on the presidency. We are especially concerned about the office of the presidency in these times of grave danger on the international front.

"But the cause of peace and freedom in the world cannot be served by a discredited presidency at home. Our allies' best hope—mankind's best hope—lies in the strength of our democratic institutions.

"Justice must be done, the risks of not doing it being more than a democracy can safely bear."

Therefore we conclude that:

Richard M. Nixon, President of the United States, has committed impeachable offenses. He must be impeached—now.