

Mon - 12-3-73

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I heard you on television last night questioning his grasp of the elements involved in the energy crisis. He must have accurate information as must the Congress. There should be a strong bi-partisan effort to get the facts and act with prudent haste to alleviate the situation. I think the American people have more faith in their government than the polls show (both opinion and loyalty) and I think they will do what is necessary to maintain our country's strength.

I think you are doing a fine job in representing your district. I hope other Congressmen will join you in taking the Bull by the horns and setting us back on a straight course.

I think all responsible American want a "sole, orderly study" made of any action that impairs the ability of the President to govern, certainly any that might be illegal. This must be done but while it is being done inflationary rhetoric should be held at a minimum and the national business should be handled with dispatch.

Gre wells

[continues from an Opinion Ballot, November 1973 – What action should Congress take on the present crisis in government?]

I agree with the paragraph (reference below)

“We are living through another crisis in the Middle East, which could assume world-wide proportions. President Nixon, despite his many imperfections, is a recognized world leader who - together with Secretary of State Kissinger - has enjoyed many notable accomplishments in the field of foreign relations. The heads of other governments with whom a President must negotiate do not share the American public's distress over Watergate and related matters. Secondly, we have no Vice-President to succeed the President in the event the latter is impeached and found guilty. So before public opinion goes off half-cocked, let the House Judiciary Committee - as the Miami Herald has suggested - 'begin a sober and orderly study of whether the President has in fact done anything for which he should be impeached' •..”  
" (Congressional Record - October 29, 1973 - p. E6794 - placed by Hon. John N. Erlenborn (R-1 Illinois).”

I feel that the President is strong minded and tough and I think we need him at this time. He must have good advice and a good feeling for all situations at home and abroad.

I have heard you on television last night questioning his grasp of the elements involved in the energy crisis. He must have accurate information as must the Congress. There should be a strong bi-partisan effort to get the facts and act with prudent haste to alleviate the situation. I think the American people have more faith in their government than the polls show (both executive and legislative) and I think they will do what is necessary to maintain our country's strength.

I think all responsible Americans want a “sober, orderly study” made of any actions that impair the ability of the President to govern, certainly any that might be illegal. This must be done but while it is being done inflammatory rhetoric should be held at a minimum and the Nation's business should be handled with dispatch.

Sincerely,  
Joe Wells

# OPINION BALLOT

November 1973

DEC 10 1973

SUBJECT: What action should Congress take on the present crisis in government?

Dear Congressman

*Jones*

JAMES R. JONES, M.C.  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Many people across America are asking that Congress impeach President Nixon or ask him to resign. According to the polls, there are about as many people who think that he should neither be impeached nor resign. Other serious issues are Watergate and confirmation of a Vice President. Below are some differing views and my opinion.

**CONGRESS SHOULD PROCEED:** Hon. William S. Moorhead (D-Pa.) says, "... The delivery of the tapes to Judge Sirica in no way should deter the House from continuing its investigation into whether the President has engaged in impeachable offenses. Further I believe - and I told this to the Speaker - the Judiciary Committee should hire Archibald Cox as a special counsel and then immediately subpoena all of Cox's records and files at the Justice Department and employ them in the Committee's own investigation. In addition, I feel strongly that a new special prosecutor should quickly be appointed by Judge Sirica, or the Congress, through legislative mandate, should name a new special prosecutor to continue the investigative work of the task force which was headed by Cox.

"In my mind, the President still faces serious charges involving the obstruction of justice and criminal investigations, wiretapping, bribery, failure to report the break-in to Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office, the use of CIA to cripple FBI investigations, and the submission of false reports to Congress relating to the bombing of Cambodia. If proven, these and other charges fit within the 'high crimes and misdemeanors' impeachment clause of the Constitution. A final determination by the Judiciary Committee should be made on all charges before we can and should quiet the voices seeking impeachment of Richard Nixon. The Committee also must expeditiously consider Gerald Ford's nomination as Vice President. I do not believe his nomination should be tied to the Committee's newest - most critical - responsibility, the inquiry into possible criminal actions by the President." (Congressional Record - Oct. 29, 1973 - p. E6792)

**SHOULD PROCEED WITH CAUTION:** John S. Knight, in a recent editorial says, "... Just one year ago, President Nixon received 61.7% of the total vote cast. Today, an angry and uninformed public is loudly demanding that he be impeached forthwith... Up to now, Mr. Nixon has not been convicted - other than in the court of public opinion - of any of these impeachable sins... So despite the anguished cries of the American Civil Liberties Union, partisan members of Congress seeking to make personal capital of Mr. Nixon's dilemma, and an under-informed public, which votes its gut feelings through oversimplified call-in newspaper polls and radio talk shows, there appears to be no substantial legal grounds for the President's impeachment..."

"We are living through another crisis in the Middle East, which could assume world-wide proportions. President Nixon, despite his many imperfections, is a recognized world leader who - together with Secretary of State Kissinger - has enjoyed many notable accomplishments in the field of foreign relations. The heads of other governments with whom a President must negotiate do not share the American public's distress over Watergate and related matters. Secondly, we have no Vice-President to succeed the President in the event the latter is impeached and found guilty... So before public opinion goes off half-cocked, let the House Judiciary Committee - as the Miami Herald has suggested - 'begin a sober and orderly study of whether the President has in fact done anything for which he should be impeached'..." (Congressional Record - October 29, 1973 - p. E6794 - placed by Hon. John N. Erlenborn (R-Illinois).

Here is the action I think Congress should take on the present crisis: slayee wholeheartedly  
with this paragraph. I feel that the President is  
(Put Additional Comments on Reverse Side)

Name: Joe Wells Occupation: Chandler Materials Co  
(Please print or write clearly)

Address: Box 627 City: Tulsa State: Okla. Zip Code: 74101

This Ballot furnished by the National "Write Your Congressman" Club, Inc.  
5025 N. Central Expressway  
Dallas, Texas 75205

GEN MISC. Watergate  
Wells, Mr. Jim

December 4, 1973

Mr. Jim Wells  
Box 627  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74101

Dear Mr. Wells:

It was with great interest that I received your communication on the vital matter involving the President, the firing of Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox, and the attendant investigation.

We must now proceed in a nonpartisan effort to unite our nation and re-establish trust in our national leadership. To this end, the House Judiciary Committee is moving diligently and expeditiously on the confirmation of Vice President-Designate Gerald Ford, as well as on the questions of impeachment and an independent special prosecutor.

I agree with you that what is needed is not a rush to judgment but an extraordinarily careful consideration of the facts involved based upon an independent, responsible investigation. Our nation is confronted with an historical crisis, and we will have to live with the outcome for generations.

Our democracy needs your support more than ever. With increased awareness and participation, and with renewed faith and patriotism, we will emerge a stronger, more united nation. As your Congressman, and as a fellow citizen, I appreciate your taking the time to express your thoughts on this most significant matter.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES R. JONES  
Member of Congress

P.S. I am enclosing two recent newsletters I have written concerning some of the questions surrounding this matter.

JRJ/lk