

# GET OFF HIS BACK!

EB 4 1974

**MANY AMERICANS ARE APPALLED** by the double standard exhibited by some members of Congress and the media concerning Watergate.

**WE DO NOT BELIEVE WATERGATE** should be glossed over. We do believe it should be put in perspective against the Bobby Baker investigation that never was—and the very suspect election returns of 1960 that Richard Nixon chose not to contest. He did not want John Kennedy to begin his administration under a cloud of doubt with court action that would have divided the nation. Obviously Senator Edward Kennedy moves under no such restraint.

**SENATOR SAM ERVIN** has quoted scripture to the American people and called for a rebirth of morality in our political system. Senator Ervin is so concerned with the lack of morality in politics that he voted seven times against an investigation of Bobby Baker during the Johnson Administration.

**SENATOR INOUE**, one of the President's most outspoken critics, also cast his votes against exposing Mr. Baker and the Senate to the public eye.

Members of Congress say their eagerness to parade Watergate before television cameras is a dedication to uncover wrongdoing. Many who have looked at the record say it is a dedication to pious hypocrisy.

**WHAT HAPPENED** to the promised investigation of alleged illegal contributions and dirty tricks in the Democrat campaign of '72?

**WHAT HAPPENED** to the inquiry into Big Labor money in politics, especially in view of George Meany's push for impeachment.

**ARCHIBALD COX HAS PUBLICLY ADMITTED** leaking confidential information to Senators Kennedy and Hart. The Watergate committee suspended one of its staff for leaks to the press. Yet some maintain that President Nixon dismissed Cox without cause and refer to the former Special Prosecutor as "Mr. Integrity." One more web in the tangle of Watergate.

**IF PRESIDENT NIXON** had followed the line of thinking, that the White House should meekly surrender any material that might be subpoenaed, the chaos that could result is mind boggling! Suppose those opposed to opening relations with China had subpoenaed all documents relating to Mr. Kissinger's negotiations under the theory that "the people have a right to know."

**THE PROSPECT** of over 200,000,000 "presidents" becoming involved in each White House decision speaks for itself.

**WHEN JUDGE SIRICA RULED** that the President should turn over the tapes and Mr. Nixon chose to appeal, we were immediately told the President was "placing himself above the law" and should be considered in contempt of court—before the judicial process was ever completed.

**WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PRESIDENT'S RIGHT TO APPEAL?** One of the "confidential" tapes has now been played on the Washington cocktail circuit by a lawyer associated with Ralph Nader. This supports the President's contention that White House privacy could be seriously threatened by such subpoenas—yet Senator Ervin has recently asked for over 500 tapes and documents.

**WITH THE REPORT OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS** regarding the erased tape came renewed cries for impeachment. Once more, as with the original subpoena, the President of the United States is being denied the time to work through the courts. Once more members of Congress are telling us that "the burden of proof is on the President"—that he is to be presumed guilty until proven innocent.

**THE CONSTITUTION IS BEING TURNED UPSIDE DOWN**—and we, the people, sit in silence.

**HOUSE MINORITY COUNSEL, ALBER JENNER**, contends that (in considering articles of impeachment) the President should be held directly responsible for actions of all subordinates. If this is upheld, it will be interesting to see how much time future Presidents can devote to matters other than checking and rechecking members of the staff.

**THE JAN. 6 SUNDAY EDITION** of the New York Times carried a story claiming that Archibald Cox was fired because he was about to name the President as a co-conspirator in Watergate. Even Mr. Cox branded the story as false, but it was quoted in newspapers and on televisions across the country.

**THE TIMES ALSO HAD PRINTED** a report of the airport meeting between William Buckley and Senator Goldwater and their "prediction" of a startling new development in Watergate. Mr. Buckley denied having made such a statement and asked for a retraction. He reported the Times did not see fit to print one.

**FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IS THRIVING** in America. It is Freedom of the NEWS that is suffering!

**NOW THE "CREDIBILITY GAP"** of the Energy Crisis is being pointed to as evidence of erosion of trust in the President because of Watergate. This is an interesting conclusion considering the energy shortage was being called a "hoax" over three years ago by opponents of the Alaskan pipeline.

**PRESIDENT NIXON IS NEGOTIATING** for world peace while powerful lobbies are negotiating for impeachment.

**IF WE OPPOSE WHAT IS HAPPENING** but remain silent, we are relinquishing our presidential votes to those in control of Congress and the media. We are telling them it is all right to cover for one administration and demolish another—that they may decide which President is to be allowed to remain in office.

**TO THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO CONVICT** with headlines and impeach with innuendo, our message is brief and direct: **GET OFF HIS BACK!**

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GM Watergate Messler, T. E.

February 4, 1974

Mr. T. E. Messler  
5740 South 72 east Ave.  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74145

Dear Mr. Messler:

Thank you very much for communicating with me concerning your opinions on the question of impeachment.

After several resolutions of impeachment were introduced last year, the House Judiciary Committee was assigned the responsibility of investigating the facts to determine whether there was evidence to personally implicate the President in an impeachable offense.

A staff was assembled in December to begin this study. It is expected that the Judiciary Committee staff investigation will be completed sometime in April. At that time, the evidence will be presented and a vote taken to determine whether impeachment proceedings should begin or be dropped.

Most House Members, including myself, believe that we should keep an open mind and decide on the basis of the legal evidence which is presented later in the spring.

In the meantime, Congress has a full agenda of important business in the areas of energy, the economy, and other domestic legislation which will occupy my work and attention.

I do appreciate your taking the time to share your views with me, and I will keep these in mind at such time as I am called upon to decide on this issue.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

JAMES R. JONES  
Member of Congress

JRJ/LK