



National Coalition of "We the People"

Why Follow the "Nixon Plan" for Impeachment Investigations?

1. One bill each from, say, 25 members will receive more notice and will have more power in a committee/subcommittee than a single bill with 25 co-sponsors.
2. 25 members—each hopping an investigation bill, 1 per week—may encourage the courage of other members to follow suit or to become a co-sponsor (Rep. Bella Abzug's 1973 bill had 16).
3. If a member hops a bill, s/he does not have to round up a single co-sponsor, as was the situation in the Nixon impeachment bills.
4. The member does not have to co-sponsor a bill authored by someone s/he doesn't like or respect.
5. The member is obeying the oath of office to support/defend the Constitution—instead of opposing impeachment candidates. It is non-political.
6. The member will have prevented nullification of Congress' powers via signing statements or precedent-setting "unitary-executive" actions by the President. Doing nothing right now provides precedent for future presidents (e.g., McCain, Huckabee, Clinton, Obama, et al.) to disregard Congress. No President would ever relinquish powers President Bush has seized that are illegal under the U.S. Constitution.
7. **Vote-getting:** To progressive constituents, hopping a bill to investigate whether a President/Vice President have committed high crimes and misdemeanors rising to the Constitutional standards for impeachment.
8. **Vote-getting:** To undecided/hostile constituents, an investigatory bill can be cited as the means to silence impeachment proponents once and for all. To inform them that a hearing does not automatically result in impeachment in the House Judiciary committee or the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.
9. Neither House business nor the time factor will be affected, as was the case in the Clinton impeachment. Hearings should take no longer than a day or two in that President Bush admitted violations of the Fourth Amendment by warrantless wiretapping even before September 11, 2001. Vice President Cheney threatened aggression against Iran publicly on a ship's deck off its shores in direct violation of the Constitution's adherence to international law governing threats to the United States.
10. The member will have saved time, costs, but more especially both the Constitution and our democracy from usurpation by those who intend to destroy both.

This strategy—nearly 100 separate impeachment bills (two-thirds for investigations only)—worked to convince President Richard Nixon that Republican leaders were right in strongly suggesting he resign or face an impeachment and Senate conviction for his high-crimes against the Constitution and American citizens. He resigned August 9, 1974.