

A Call for an Impeachment Campaign: Summary

6/20/2006

Why is impeachment important?

- 1) Congress has proclaimed that it will not impeach¹, that it intends to remain complicit in this administration's crimes; if *we* remain silent, we too become complicit.
- 2) This administration, in over 750 signing statements, has proclaimed itself not to be bound by any law if it claims not to be². If this administration ends without an impeachment to repudiate this claim, the imperial presidency becomes a perpetual legacy and government by three co-equal branches is at an end.
- 3) An impeachment campaign is not a distraction from the anti-war struggle but probably the most effective means that we have of conducting it.
- 4) A call for impeachment is the necessary attack on the empire. We can only stop the next war now by punishing those that brought us this one.
- 5) A call to end the war is a demand on the administration, a demand that it will ignore while Congress remains silent; a call for impeachment is a demand on Congress to which it must respond and be answerable to history.

How do we proceed?

- 6) The Articles of Impeachment should name Bush *and* Cheney. Any successor, no matter how odious, will be much chastened and will, in any case, have little time to serve³.
- 7) The Articles should include the following charges: i) The waging of unprovoked and therefore illegal war and the falsification of intelligence to justify the war. ii) ordering the National Security Agency to conduct electronic surveillance of American civilians without seeking warrants from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review. iii) The institution of torture in US prisons in violation of the US Constitution, its laws, and international law. iv) The detention of persons without trial or other due process of law in violation of the Constitution, US and international law. v) proclaiming and practicing the right not to obey laws passed by Congress and other such violations of the Constitution.
- 8) We should campaign for impeachment in each of two ways: **i)** Publicity: on our web sites, in our vigils and demonstrations, letters to the editor, and petitions and lobbying members of Congress. **ii)** Lobbying local councils: states can send Articles of Impeachment to the House. We can lobby local councils to demand of the State legislature that it do so. Deserted by most of Congress and by the media, it falls to our local government to become the voice of the people.
- 9) In this way, we can begin to fight the hydra-headed monster of the empire in a less diffuse and more coherent way. In an impeachment campaign, we can list the most important crimes in one instrument, the Articles of Impeachment, and engage in one focused campaign that has as its objective, not just to change policy but to bring the evil-doers down and make them answer for their crimes. Even if we do not succeed, the effort will have more impact on policy than any direct attack on the policy alone could possibly have.

¹ ... Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (Calif.) told her caucus members during their weekly closed meeting Wednesday "that impeachment is off the table; she is not interested in pursuing it," spokesman Brendan Daly said. ... *Washington Post*, Friday, May 12, 2006; Page A06

² The American Bar Association Board of Governors voted unanimously Saturday to launch an inquiry into President Bush's frequent use of signing statements to bypass new laws because of his interpretation of presidential and executive powers under the US Constitution. The President has used such statements some 750 times [Boston Globe report] since taking office in 2001. In January this year, he controversially reserved the right to bypass a ban on torture when he signed the 2006 defense spending bill, prompting even top Republican leaders to criticize him. *Jurist*, Sunday June 4 2006, *University of Pennsylvania School of Law*.

³ Easily the best model to follow for parts 6, 7, and 8ii is that provided in *A Guide to the Impeachment of George W Bush and Richard Cheney* by Phil Burk, Richard Mathews, and Sophie de Vries. Be sure to download it: www.impeachbush.tv/downloads/guide_to_impeachment.pdf. They also cover why impeachment is important with scholarly legal argument that is a model of clarity. There is also a very full indictment drawn up against "The Bush Administration" by the International Commission of Inquiry on Crimes Against Humanity (www.bushcommission.org). This is much more wide ranging and less suitable as the basis for a campaign but still well worth reading. The web site www.impeachpac.org functions as a news center and forum for the impeachment campaign. Be sure to bookmark it and refer to it often.