

Impeach

OK

Chatham, MA 02633
November 12, 1998

Sen. Arlen Specter
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Sen. Specter,

I was interested to hear your proposal on C-Span 2 last evening that Congress discontinue the impeachment process against Pres. Clinton and, instead, delay any action until he leaves office, at which time he would be tried in a court of law.

In my view, this is nothing more than Congress avoiding its responsibility under the Constitution, but I would not be surprised if the idea gains support from both sides of the aisle.

Democrats would be more than happy, in their hypocrisy, to shield Clinton from prosecution and possible severe punishment while he is in office and even afterward, subscribing to the old saying that "Justice delayed is justice denied".

Republicans would also be happy to see the problem disappear, apparently lacking the courage to proceed with what they should know they should do.

The legal charges of perjury, subornation to perjure, obstruction of justice, etc. are serious ones which should be aired and judged as promptly as possible. If he is innocent, the matter would be resolved and we could, to quote Clinton and the Democrats, "get on with the nation's business". If on the other hand, he was found guilty of charges which, under other circumstances would merit severe punishment, it could be meted out, including forced resignation from office.

If the CEO of a major company was accused of similar charges, I am sure that you, in your former role as prosecuting attorney, would not say, "We'll wait to bring charges until you leave your position".

There is, of course, another possible reason for this proposal. If, in the remote chance that the charges were sufficiently well-founded that even Democrats would vote for impeachment and removal from office, the obvious successor would be Vice-President Gore who would then have an significant advantage in the 2000 election which the Republicans obviously wouldn't want.

I would hope that Congress would have both the courage and the

honesty to face its responsibility. By postponing action until some undefined time in the future, it would be simply just another reason why the American people have so little faith in their government.

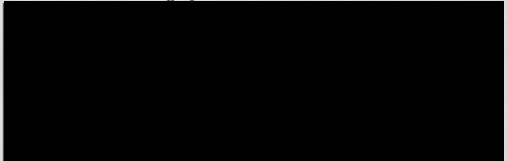
On another matter; you expressed the opinion that Clinton should seek Congressional approval for his essentially unilateral, disgraceful, and obviously "Wag the Dog" intent to attack Iraq which clearly would be an act of war and, as such, would subject to Congressional approval under the Constitution.

This will not happen because Congress will not insist on it for essentially the same reasons as above; namely, the Republicans lack the courage to insist on their Constitutional right and the Democrats are more than happy to let their leader look presidential by waging war on a third-rate country.

There is no doubt that, by failing to seek Congressional approval in this instance, Clinton is in violation of the Constitution but nothing will be done about it.

You expressed concern that, by continuing the Clinton impeachment inquiry, the country would be thrown into a crisis of non-leadership. We are already in that crisis and the reason lies as much, if not more, at the feet of Congress and its failure to do the job for which it was elected. Unless or until that changes, Washington may provide employment for incompetence but it will exert a decreasingly positive impact on the lives of the average citizen of this country.

Sincerely,



cc: C-Span 2