

BRIAN:

It seems reasonable that the Senate of the United States should have the sole right and power to try impeachments, but is it fair? Since the senators did not elect the president why should they have the authority to overturn the people's mandate?

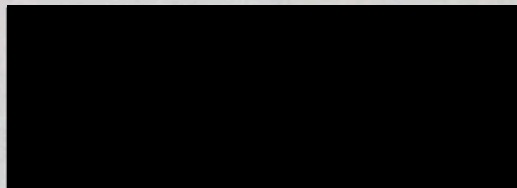
You might say, "But the senators are directly elected representatives of the people and, in effect, they are the people." True, but not completely fair. Even a two-thirds majority of votes to impeach may not represent the will of the people. Removal, or survival, could be the result of pure partisan politics. A senator from Montana or Idaho may represent a mere handful of people, yet his or her vote is equal to a senator from California or New York, so the final decision to impeach may be far from the desire of the majority of Americans that elected the president in the voting booth.

The framers were correct in assuming that some base politician could some day be accused of treason, bribery, or some other high crimes, but who should be responsible for bringing the charges against him? It was eventually decided that the House of Representatives would have the sole power of impeachment and the Senate would have the sole power to try all impeachments. For the House, with its larger membership and a broader representation of the population, it seemed reasonable that the House should investigate and bring the charges, but for the reasons stated earlier, it is unfair that the Senate try the president.

*0 impeach*

If the members of the House Judiciary Committee have fairly investigated the charges against the president and the full membership votes to impeach, the fate of the executive should be left to the American people in a specially called election. The fathers of the Constitution delegated far too much power to the upper chamber of Congress and from the beginning these prima-donna politicians have represented the vested interests of the country rather than the people as a whole. Therefore, in cases of impeachment, the Senate should remain silent and have no part in the outcome.

An amendment to our present constitution could put the decision back in the hands of "We the people" where it should have been in the first place.



Youngstown, Ohio 44512-6314