

December 13, 1998

David Broder
Washington Post

Dear Mr. Broder:

Post columnist Sally Quinn was on a news show so enraptured with the "Washington Family" and so distressed that President Clinton disgraced that Family.

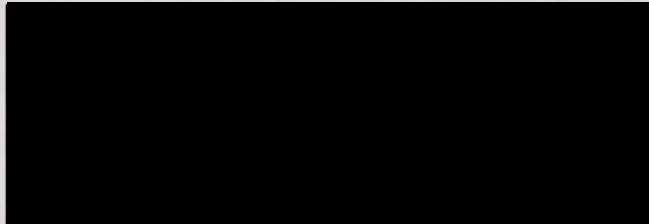
She is related somehow to a CIA agent. Was he involved with the coup in Chile - the death squads in Central America - the assassination of President Kennedy? She must know George Bush was in the CIA during the Bay of Pigs and the assassination. J. Edgar Hoover's memo to the State Dept. is the smoking gun! He lied under oath about this when appointed Reagan's CIA Director. A cover-up!

In the Nixon tapes, the Bay of Pigs was code for the assassination - Bob Haldeman wrote in his book "The Ends of Power."

You must be a member of that "Family" plotting the overthrow of President Clinton! The vicious vultures in the news media should be indicted as accessories in this coup d'etat. The right wing used bullets in 1963 - today impeachment.

How dare you do this to our President that we the people elected twice!!!!!!

Copy: Sally Quinn
President Clinton
Attorney General Reno
FBI Director Freeh



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Star Tribune Editorial

Judiciary injustice

Clinton deserves censure, not impeachment

In pressing ahead with articles of impeachment against President Clinton, the House Judiciary Committee's majority doggedly flouts historical precedent, the wisdom of constitutional scholars and the demonstrated will of the electorate.

Any reading of the Constitution's historical context shows that Article II, Section 4 was crafted to protect this new democracy from an unjust use of power — that is, from tyranny. Its stipulation of "Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors" as a justification for impeachment denotes weighty offenses — the level of misconduct that faced Watergate's grave, earnest Judiciary Committee.

When citizens watch that somber panel's 1998 counterpart in action, they see not gravity but anger. They don't see, as Americans did in 1974, a bipartisan awakening to the horrible truth of a president's offenses against democracy. Instead they see a scornful majority counsel forced to make the worst possible inferences to hoist a sex scandal and its aftermath to the level of constitutional crisis. Call it Impeachment Lite, a pseudo-sorrowful ritual of impeachment as punishment.

Impeachment was not designed to punish a person; it was meant to protect the republic. The clause was intended to save our nation from the oppression and corruption the founders had seen elsewhere.

Neither was the impeachment clause intended to uphold "the rule of law." Indeed, Clinton is not immune from eventual prosecution — though were he an ordinary citizen, prosecution would be highly unlikely. Nor was impeachment designed to teach America's children the value of telling the truth — as Clinton's humiliation is

surely teaching them now.

And the framers certainly did not mean for Congress to deliver, to use Rep. Bill McCollum's approving phrase, the "ultimate scarlet letter" in the form of impeachment.

Indeed, employing the impeachment clause in Clinton's circumstance demonstrates not the gravity of his wrongdoing, but rather the depth of partisan contempt aimed his way — and the willingness of this committee to employ drastic means to vent it.

Rep. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., was no doubt speaking for many citizens when he said in his statement Thursday: "I think the American people still don't believe that we're foolish enough or partisan enough to do this. I think the American people are waiting for us to come to our senses and end this political game of chicken. But to the American people I say that the House may very well do the unthinkable."

What the House may do is unthinkable. It is unthinkable for a majority party to punish a popular president for private behavior, against the demonstrated will of the electorate — using a mechanism designed to protect the republic from abuse against the state. On some level, many Republicans must know how unthinkable this is — hence, the renewed calls for Clinton to resign.

Clinton's behavior with Monica Lewinsky was improper and reckless. He handled its consequences badly. He deserves the stern vote of rebuke or censure that he told Americans Friday he is ready to accept.

But those who vote to impeach will deserve the voters' wrath. For in using a protective measure as a punishment, they are misusing the Constitution they're bound to honor.

Reason out the window

It appears that the moral zealots have again taken over the minds of once-reasonable men. Impeachment of the president should be the last resort and long, serious consideration should be given before proceeding with any articles being drafted.

It is obvious to me that neither has been done in this case. **The only thing missing from these hearings is an old woman doing her knitting, cackling and shouting, "Guillotine, Guillotine!"**

— Steven M. Levy, Burnsville.

Wanted: due process

Henry Hyde stated Wednesday morning, when President Clinton's legal team was not even close to finishing the defense argument, that the impeachment papers would be written Friday.

What kind of kangaroo court is this? Is this some old Western where the sheriff tells the mob, "We'll hang him after the trial?"

Doesn't the president deserve the same due process as drug pushers, pickpockets and shoplifters? We should impeach the Judiciary Committee for abuse of power.

— Bob Belbeck, Delano.

Making Clinton look better

I wonder whether those in charge of Congress have considered this: **Through their relentless, foolish and outrageously unfair attempts to destroy the president, congressional Republicans are enhancing — not detracting from — Bill Clinton's reputation in the current generation and for generations to come.**

— Fred Johnson, Bloomington.



Men who are as mad as hell

and they're not going to take it anymore!!!!

If the Republicans impeach - they can change their symbol from the elephant to the dinosaur!!