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Oregon group presses for impeachment trial

A group headed by a local man, Pete Jacobs, has been formed to promote impeachment proceedings against President Nixon.

At a Monday morning news conference Jacobs and fellow organizer David Gwyther announced the formation of "Oregonians to Impeach Nixon Committee, Inc." Jacobs said that "the reason for our organization is to lobby Oregon congressmen to vote in favor of impeachment."

Members of the group explained that impeachment is not conviction, but an indictment brought about by a simple majority vote of the House of Representatives. Under Article Two, Section Four of the Constitution, the Senate then determines whether the President shall be removed from office, with the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court presiding.

Spokesmen for the group admitted "it will be very difficult to prove the President guilty," but that "we are at one of those historic moments when there is a possibility of high crimes and misdemeanors."

Jacobs said that the "function of the Oregonians to Impeach Nixon is to help gather information and evidence relating to the Watergate affair and other alleged criminal activities on behalf of Richard Nixon's 1972 election to the Presidency." He added that "we'll be collecting evidence from now until June" so that the "organization will strive to gain a broad base of support."

Jacobs said that "the President is at least liable for his misconduct" although "we are not assuming his guilt." He said that the committee's goal was one as much of education as anything else. "It's the possibility of the situation as much as the actuality of it," he said. "It would be a great shame if citizens did not respond to this abuse of power."

The group said that although they had just started operations they intend to open offices in each of Oregon's four Congressional districts. "It's not so much the people like Bella Abzug of New York and Ron Dellums of Berkeley, but men like our own John Dellenback ... men with high moral standards whom we hope will set aside politics."

Questioned as to the existence of similar groups in other parts of the nation, Jacobs said that to the best of their knowledge the Oregon group was the first of its kind to be organized on a state-wide basis. He added that his group has been in contact with Anthony Russo, the recently freed defendant in the Daniel Ellsberg-Pentagon Papers trial, who has started a national "Impeach Nixon organization."

The organizers said their funds are coming from private contributions and the sale of "Impeach Nixon" bumper-stickers.

Spokesmen for the committee stressed that "this is a unique point in history," and that the impeachment of Andrew Johnson in 1868 was "strictly political," but that the charges against President Nixon go beyond politics.

ROTC grads hear officer

Lt. Gen. Patrick F. Cassidy, commanding General of the Fifth U.S. Army and 1937 ROTC graduate of the University, addressed the annual Army ROTC graduation ceremony Sunday afternoon at the Music Hall Auditorium.

In making his introduction of the general, University President Robert Clark noted that Cassidy is a highly decorated combat veteran of World War II campaigns in Normandy and Holland and has served in top ranks of military leadership in the post-War period.

Cassidy focused his remarks on the importance of the citizen-soldier tradition in this country. He is convinced that the strength

of this tradition and the army is central to the survival of the country as a whole. He quoted Washington, saying "to be prepared for war is an effective way to maintain peace."

Aside from considerations of military preparedness, Cassidy saw ROTC as being the "backbone of the army." This is because graduates of the program would retain a "civilian outlook all through their military careers."

As far as personal rewards go, Cassidy looked back on his "decision to take ROTC as the best decision I ever made." He felt that ROTC instills honor and integrity in those men and women who complete the program.

Cassidy noted with pride to the audience of cadets and their families that graduates "have contributed to the country in war and in peace... and comprise an elite group of civilian and military leadership."

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