



Jim Weaver, former 4th District Congressman, and Frank Stahl, UO science professor emeritus, spoke at the UO June 17 calling for the impeachment of President Bush and Vice-President Cheney. Below is a condensed text of their talks:



JIM WEAVER

FRANK STAHL

Jim Weaver: Impeachment of a president is one of the most serious steps our representative democracy can take. Another is going to war. Both should be approached with utmost care, and on clearly stated grounds. It is true the Republican-dominated 105th Congress, in impeaching President Clinton, lowered the bar on impeachment into the basement. We should not stoop so low today as did the right wing religious Republicans. Only two presidents have been impeached, and their impeachment was on essentially political grounds. We should not base a call for impeachment of President Bush

on political grounds. President Bush made a distinct promise in the 2000 election to unite the American people. After assuming the presidency – with less than a majority of the vote – he proceeded to disunite us. The Bush administration moved so far to the right it doomed the center, and provoked the extreme polarization that dominates our politics today. That promise to unite us was only the first of the extravagant lies of President Bush, but his arrogance in defying the majority will is not an impeachable offense. Such political manipulations should be reme-

died by elections. That he and his cohorts villify and trash anyone who dares speak against them and their policies is a blot on our democracy. But it is not an impeachable offense.

His tax cuts for the wealthy, threatening to convert our middle class society into a banana republic where a few families and corporations dominate a benighted lower class, are not impeachable.

Threatening the judiciary and packing the courts with right wing fanatics, dangerous and destructive as this may be, is not impeachable.

Our Social Security system is under attack by President Bush. Is this impeachable? No. Is this the politics of class and greed? Yes. It may finally arouse our citizenry to vote to throw out the perpetrators. Borrowing to pay for his tax

cuts and his war in Iraq – leaving us with a grievous national debt – is a profound and severe economic and fiscal error. His allowing desecration of our environment and his denial of global warming – ignorant and arrogant as these policies are – are not impeachable.

What is impeachable? The Constitution states the grounds are treason, bribery and other high crimes and misdemeanors. James Madison, a principle author of the Constitution, in defining high crimes said perfidy – violation of the public trust – was impeachable. The evidence, both in clearly demonstrated fact and in such documents as the Downing Street Memo, is compelling. It shows Bush lied and lied again about reasons that drove us into the war in Iraq. That is a violation of the public trust involving the most important action a nation can take: war. It rises to the very highest level of impeachable grounds.

Going to war on false pretenses is an impeachable offense. Therefore, I urge the Pacifica Forum and all citizens of Oregon to make an urgent call for the impeachment of President Bush. Vice-President Cheney should be added to that call. He participated in the same lies, the same violation of the public trust.

I suggest you make this call in a letter to Congressman Peter DeFazio, asking him to introduce articles of impeachment in the House of Representatives. If we can invigorate the American public with this indictment, it can become the paramount issue in the midterm elections of 2006. It would make that election a referendum on the Bush administration and its acolytes in Congress.

Frank Stahl: Action is urgent – a failure to impeach Bush would endorse his abuse of power. This endorsement would exacerbate the ongoing losses of the constitutionally mandated separation of powers and of respect for the rule of law.

Impeaching Bush can be compared with treating the life-threatening consequences of an advanced disease. Such treatment must be provided to stabilize the patient. However, it does not solve the underlying medical problem. This problem, which threatens the sustainability of life on our planet, is the domination of the U.S. economy by the collusion between industrial America and the Pentagon. President Eisenhower warned us against the growing power of this collusion and referred to it as the “military-industrial complex.”

My post-retirement research has led me, reluctantly, to accept the view that a more accurate moniker for the collusion would be “military-industrial-university complex.” And, sadly, I now recognize that the UO is acting as a member of that complex. The UO’s actions that dismay me include lobbying Congress for an increase in Pentagon funding for “tomorrow’s warfighters” and conducting research that promises to create soldiers unencumbered by normal human emotions.

I ask you to think deeply about the consequences of an economy driven and ruled by the Pentagon to both our country and our university, whose administration has endorsed that system. The main consequence is the creation of a small but powerful elite whose continuing wealth and power depend on the production and testing of weapons and technology which, in turn, depend on perpetual warfare.

When the University Senate is back in session, it must decide whether the university should continue to endorse an expanding military budget. However, the House of Representatives is in session NOW, and we must act NOW by insisting on the introduction of a bill of impeachment against George W. Bush.

July 4th • 4 p.m. • Island Park, Springfield
 Tickets \$5. Kids 5 and under free.



Springfield Utility Board's

Light of Liberty Celebration!

SUB is proud to bring grammy award-winning country western favorite **Riders In The Sky** back to Springfield! Enjoy an evening of music, food, kids activities and the best fireworks display in Lane County!



and Borden Chemical, Evergreen Land Title, Jerry's Home Improvement Center, Key Bank, Lane Transit District, Pepsi Bottling Company and Willamalane.

Ride the Bus  for Free!



Tickets \$4 in advance, available at Evergreen Land Title, Jerry's Home Improvement Center (Eugene and Springfield) and at SUB. Park-and-ride information at www.subutil.com or call 746-8451. All proceeds benefit Project SHARE.