

'74 NATL. CAMPAIGN to IMPEACH NIXON

washington national office & resource center

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spring impeachment campaign

WEEKLY MOBILIZING MEMO NO.2

ORGANIZERS GUIDE

April 5, 1974

Introduction

This is the second weekly memo mailed to more than 300 key organizers across the country in the hope that it helps to cohere & coordinate grass roots efforts and mobilize our collective energies for the national demonstrations in Washington, Chicago (yes folks, it's on), and Los Angeles, April 27th. In order to have even a modest success this spring, our loose impeachment network must become more coherent organizationally and visible nationally.

Consequently, this week's memo is designed as an organizer's guide to help grass roots activists mobilize popular pressure this spring for Nixon's impeachment. The guide contains brief how-to-do-it suggestions, a kind of checklist to direct organizers' efforts during this month. It is divided according to the progression of local and national actions undertaken by the Chicago Conference, March 1-3. But first, there is a brief over-view of the situation as seen from our vantage point here in Washington.

I. THE CURRENT SITUATION

Remember just two months ago when the President's defenders were demanding that his opposition "put up or shut up", get off its collective ass and impeach or silence itself? The ACLU answered by taking out ads saying "THERE IS ONLY ONE THING THAT CAN STOP IMPEACHMENT NOW. YOUR SILENCE." Meanwhile, the Democratic leadership staled around, taking months to recruit Judiciary's staff and reluctantly nudging its own noncommittal majority. All during this limbo-like period following the ebbing of outrage over Cox's firing, the grass roots impeachment movement did do everything within its power then to promote public pressure for Nixon's impeachment now.

For months, thousands of average Americans, organized and unorganized, deluged Congress with an unprecedented volume of mail,

c collected ~~millions of signatures on petitions~~, held Impeach-Ins, and grouped together as citizen lobbies to visit both district congressional offices and Capitol Hill. As this sustained grass roots work & the sheer weight of the evidence against Nixon began to affect rising opinion polls, the Judiciary Committee's investigation picked up a bit in pace but also narrowed the grounds of the probe, quietly recommending that mention of the President's impoundment of funds and secret bombing of Cambodia be dropped from any proposed bill of particulars or Articles of Impeachment.

A broad and growing popular consensus on Nixon's guilt, combined with Republican electoral defeats and moderates' impatience over White House contempt for Congress has possibly created majority support in the House for impeachment. Conviction by the Senate is not as probable, however. And the White House is currently marshalling conservative & Southern congressional support just in case delaying tactics don't stop a House vote and a second line of defense is needed by summer.

But even the first possibility --that of impeachment by the House-- is not "a sure thing". On April 3rd, Joseph Alsop concluded that "at the moment great numbers of people are counting all sorts of chickens before they are hatched. . . . If the facts are not fatally damaging to the President, the Judiciary Committee may quite possibly report the impeachment to the House 'without prejudice' --making another presentation and offering no recommendation. If a mere minority of the committee reports for impeachment the House will certainly vote against the bill. So there you have the hoped for sleeper of James D. St. Clair" (the President's lawyer).

Judging from the unhurried pace at which the Congress has been pursuing the impeachment process, the "most urgent of their constitutional obligations", Judiciary's bill of impeachment (if Articles are recommended) may be reported out of committee by "ay" or "thereabouts" and the House may finally vote by July or late summer. And the Senate, according to Democratic leaders (anxious only to prolong Nixon & the GOP's agony until fall), may debate Mr. Nixon's crimes by late summer, or "thereabouts", or perhaps never.

After all, what's the hurry? From the Democrats' point-of-view, the prospect that Republican candidates may take a beating at the polls in November is as interesting as --if not more so than-- the prospects for impeachment. Ironically, the conservatives who were demanding two months ago that "the people who are yelling for impeachment should put up or shut up" are now calling for resignation or applauding Ford's verbal attacks on CREEP. And even more ironically, many of the outraged folks who originally called for impeachment immediately after the Saturday Night Massacre back in October now feel the issue is "passe", accepting at face value rumors that Congress is already prepared to impeach. So some say "What's the hurry?" while others assume it has already happened!

But impeachment isn't passe. At this point, it not only hasn't happened; it's still in committee (after months of deliberation)! The question of elemental justice and basic democracy remains outstanding

as long as "Watergate", the shoddiest domestic episode in America's history, haunts us.

Are we to remain silent in the face of the fact that (as Nicholas von Hoffman recently pointed out) "the Yo-Yo King gets to veto any charges he doesn't like, he gets to select and censor the evidence, he gets to make Congress keep the evidence secret and he gets two hundred grand a year tax free?"

Or are we prepared to reassert the people's sovereignty over the President's? Will the "representatives of the people" respond to our demands for justice and not just those of entrenched interests for business favors? Or, faced with an already existing prima facie case for Nixon's criminality, will Congress continue to plod along, procrastinate and prove what many already cynically suspect: that there is no way for ordinary people to attain justice from the established system?

If so, those members of Congress will stand convicted as Nixon's accomplices (however unwitting) and deserve --and undoubtedly receive-- the scorn of the majority of Americans. Anyway you look at it: there will be an "impeachment" of some sort!

2. OUR IMMEDIATE STRATEGY FOR THE SPRING

As the House Judiciary Committee slowly moves to complete its investigation, the real danger is that active, concerned Americans will become bored with the issue of Nixon's criminal behavior. (There already seem to be signs to this: Grass roots activity has decreased, petitioning has dropped off and reports from friendly congressional offices indicate mail is extremely slow.)

Although public opinion polls show increasing support for impeachment, some of those organizers who should be directing that majority's outrage towards its target --Richard Nixon-- have grown cynical, tired or both. Witness April 1st's editorial in Clergy & Laity's American Report: It admits the urge to publish a photograph of Nixon pointing at us with the caption "This is your President. Do something about it." But the editors conclude that impeachment won't make any real difference: "This President's departure from the White House, whenever it happens, will not end Nixonism; Nelson Rockefeller, among others, is already furiously at work. Mr. Nixon's finger is pointing at us."

It certainly is! And if such jaded cynicism continues to stifle the movement's impulse to seize the time, take opportunity of Nixon's current weakness and mobilize peoples' support for impeachment; then the President may indeed have the last laugh! And make no mistake about it: Nixon still is the President. He hasn't been impeached yet. Oh sure, Rockefeller and a whole shitload of other equally disgusting President aspirants are furiously working towards 1976. And yes, we certainly should do something about it! But first things first: We must work furiously to dump Nixon and then we'll deal with Rocky and company by overhauling the entire system.

Despite the seeming inevitability of impeachment (remember when it was regarded as an impossibility?), our task now must be to keep the heat on Congress and catalyze the peoples' energies by encouraging another wave of letter-writing and petitioning, organizing grass roots demonstrations, educational events and local lobbies during the Easter Recess (April 15-19), and finally by mobilizing a wide variety of Americans to come to Washington, Chicago and Los Angeles April 27th after our Citizen's Lobby-In, April 24-26th in D.C.

If grass roots sentiment is to become an organized force capable of exercising political clout, then we must begin to generate the kind of dynamic that draws people together and into motion, one that lets them see one another and develop a sense that we can make a difference. In doing so, we can't really rely on the liberal media but instead must excite peoples' interest through our own communications --by word-of-mouth, postering, and other advertizing (articles, radio ads, etc).

We realize that some people are reluctant to throw in on mobilizing for national actions and prefer grass roots work. But we honestly believe the most effective way to get people into motion at this particular moment is to stage nationally coordinated, peaceful but spirited marches through the streets of Washington, Chicago and Los Angeles and to rally (at the Capitol in D.C.) to demonstrate in support of an immediate House vote for impeachment and speedy Senate trial of Richard Nixon.

Congress is basically a body of followers, not leaders, and so it's necessary for the people once again to take the initiative, thus offsetting White House delaying tactics and pushing a reluctant Congress to move more decisively. It won't face up to a situation unless it has to (witness it's lethargy before the massive release of public outrage following the Cox firing), so now --more than ever-- is the time to mount determined pressure on Congress. Let's make sure impeachment is, in fact, "a sure thing"!

THE PEOPLE HAVE MADE IMPEACHMENT A POSSIBILITY: ONLY THE PEOPLE
CAN MAKE SURE IT HAPPENS NOW!

Brian Coyle for
the NCIN staff: Ted Glick,
Kitty Tucker, Herb Epstein
and Marie Merlin Price.

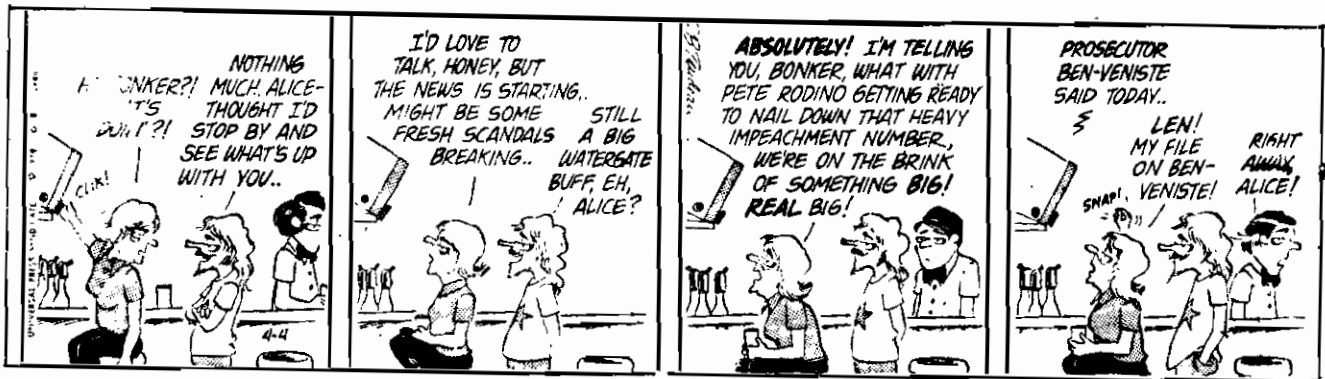
NOTE: More extensive reports on all three national actions, April 27th, follow in the second section of this GUIDE; however, information about who to contact about those demonstrations follows here:

WASHINGTON, D.C.: National Campaign to Impeach Nixon
1404 'M' St., NW, Washington, D.C. 202-659-1118

CHICAGO, ILL: Dump Nixon Coalition (% VVAW-WSO)
827 U. Newport
Chicago, ILL. 60657 312-278-5832 or Toni Fall at
night 312-287-9650

LOS ANGELES, CA: Unite Against Nixon (% Peoples Action Union)
1353 S. Arlington Ave., LA, CA 90019 213-732-2445

LET'S STOP MERELY WATCHING THE SPECTACLE AND
MAKE HISTORY AGAIN OURSELVES!



THE PEOPLE HAVE MADE IMPEACHMENT A POSSIBILITY;
ONLY THE PEOPLE CAN MAKE SURE IT HAPPENS!

spring impeachment campaign

WEEKLY MOBILIZING MEMO NO.2-PART 2

ORGANIZERS GUIDE

3. AN ORGANIZER'S CHECK-LIST FOR MOBILIZING PEOPLE THIS SPRING:

- A. IF YOU DON'T ALREADY HAVE ONE, ORGANIZE A GRASS ROOTS CORE GROUP COMMITTEE OR COALITION FOR THE SPRING IMPEACHMENT CAMPAIGN:

If you don't already belong to a local impeachment group, form one, a nucleus of dedicated people --especially ones willing to give a lot of time and energy during this month and next's. If you are already a member of an impeachment group but it's relatively inactive, call it together immediately and discuss the spring campaign April activities first.

Decide whether or not your group can organize for one or all of the spring actions and then divide up tasks to be done. Designate members of your group as coordinators 1) to handle publicity: author articles for your community's alternative press, order NCIN's posters & form teams to put them up, book yourselves on talk-shows, write a local press release announcing your group's intention to participate in the spring campaign, etc. Other coordinators should be assigned 2) to schedule a hometown delegation visit to your con-

gressperson's district office between April 15-19th; 3) to sign people up who would like to form a car pool, buy bus tickets or reserve seats on trains to attend the April 27th national demonstrations in Washington, Chicago and Los Angeles; 4) to renew letter-writing, leafleting & especially petitioning in your community.

B. RENEW PETITIONING; SEND ANOTHER MESSAGE TO WASHINGTON

The National Campaign to Impeach Nixon recommends that you petition again publicly, even if you've done it before. Setting up a table and signs downtown to petition for even a few hours a day for a week allows us to maintain a presence, hand out explanatory leaflets, talk to the people and sign up those who want to go to the national demonstrations. If each person who comes to Washington brings a hundred or more signatures on petitions, he or she will really represent the hometown community. Those who enjoy letter-writing should also renew their efforts for reports from congressional offices indicate mail has dropped dramatically in recent weeks.

C. ORGANIZE HOMETOWN ACTIVITIES AND DISTRICT LOBBIES DURING EASTER RECESS

1) TURN YOUR PAPERS INTO IRS ON TAX DAY, APRIL 15TH

April 15th, Tax Day presents us with the perfect opportunity to dramatize Nixon & his wealthy benefactors' tax dodges. Recently, the Peoples Bicentennial Coalition in Boston held an imaginative rally at the IRS office downtown which might serve as an example of how a few people can effectively use guerrilla theater tactics on Tax Day. Signs saying "Tax the Rich-ard" and "Big Oil Deplets U.S." greeted rally participants when people entered the IRS office to turn in their own memorabilia & personal papers, claiming deductions such as those \$570,000 ones Nixon received for his vice-presidential papers. Of course, the fact that Nixon just promised to pay his back taxes may undercut "Pay Up & Get Out" rallies, but we think it's still a good educational angle, one worthy of activists' consideration for local demonstrations, April 15.

2) VISIT YOUR CONGRESSPERSON'S DISTRICT OFFICE (AGAIN IF NEED BE)

The upcoming Easter recess, April 15-19, will see congresspeople returning to their home districts. Although the congressional focus is only one aspect of the impeachment movement's efforts, applying pressure on both the House and now Senate (especially fence-sitters and moderate Republicans) is essential now. During the week of April 15-19, you may very well have your last chance to visit their district offices to pin them down before an impeachment vote. So, even if you have already applied pressure before; do it again to keep the heat on.

Call your congressperson's office to make an appointment and invite the press to accompany you. Go in a group; send five or more people, assign two or three spokespeople. Do not deal in vague generalities or mere rhetoric. Come prepared with petitions and/or a brief statement clearly articulating our impeachment demand. Be firm, determined though cooperative. Use the Dobrovir case for impeachment (called "High Crimes

& Gross Misdemeanors" and available in most college bookstores) as well as public opinion polls to back up your position. Press for a commitment one way or the other. The majority of reluctant congresspeople who've remained noncommittal for the last few months must now be asked to take a public stand so they can be held accountable before an impeachment vote. Be prepared for their almost inevitable evasions.

When we talk about a congressional focus or pressuring elected representatives, we are not giving exclusive attention to Congress or "putting our trust" in public officials. So far, Congress has moved too slowly towards impeachment and recent news reports indicate Judiciary will narrow its proposed grounds for impeachment, cutting out reference to Nixon's bombing of Cambodia and impoundment of funds. But our efforts can exacerate the impeachment process (after all Congress only seriously initiated it after our massive response to Cox's firing). And renewed grass roots pressure can reintroduce the broader issue of this Administration's Indochina and domestic policies back into the impeachment debate.

D. ORGANIZE LOCAL DELEGATIONS TO VISIT CAPITOL HILL, APRIL 24-26

When congresspeople return to "the Hill" in Washington, they expect to find safty from their constituents amongst "the Club". Visiting constituents usually only request that they pose briefly for photos on the Capitol steps. But our 'representatives' are not used to determined group lobbies (of even 5 to 10 people let alone more) showing up on their turf and pursuing them in the halls of Congress itself.

Yet that's what has been happening for months since the Cox firing, and our experience with bringing even 350 people to Washington from 15 states last February has led us to encourage hometown delegations to lobby Capitol Hill again (this time both the House & Senate) April 24-26, when Congress has resumed work and Judiciary's April 30th "deadline" nears (and probably passes without being met).

Since most NCIN coordinators will be busy organizing for Saturday, April 27th's demonstration, hometown lobbists should expect to handle visits to the Hill pretty much by themselves. One or two people in our office and two in ACLU's national office are willing to help coordinate, but it isn't as difficult as you might think to set up your own visit.

Just write or call the Representative or Senator's office for an appointment and confirm it before visiting. However, don't be put off by some of the usual excuses such as your representative is "on the floor of Congress," etc. You can often go directly to the House door and have a page bring the congressperson a note calling him or her off the floor long enough to forcefully make your point, even standing there in the halls of Congress.

Even though it is best to minimize rhetoric, ask your representative what his or her views are as well as express your own opinion forcefully, and include a borad corss-section of constituents in your delegation if

possible. It can't hurt to be determined though still somewhat diplomatic. One of the most impressive meetings during our February Lobby-In took place when eight to ten Philadelphians called a conservative Democrat off the House floor and surrounded him in the Capitol hallway, pressing their points firmly. The nervous guards and even Carl Albert (who happened to walk by) asked if it was some kind of demonstration. Though "just a lobbying effort", it was indeed a kind of demonstration.

Of course, it is essential to make sure that you've gotten together your delegation at least briefly before going to meet with a Senator or Representative. Go over the kinds of points you plan to make, check their position to date, and designate someone to act as the initial spokespeople. After the meeting, it is important that you write up a report --at least indicate whether the representative was for, against or withholding judgment on impeachment and drop it off or mail copies to NCIM and ACLU.

E. MOBILIZE FOR APRIL 27TH'S MARCH, RALLY & FAIP

Support for April 27th is beginning to build: Los Angeles reported yesterday (April 4) that 100 organizers representing a wide variety of progressive groups (including ACLU chapters, the Lawyers Guild, United Farm Workers, La Raza Unita, the Rubber Workers, Women's Union, Asian Coalition, Peoples Action Unions, & Dump Nixon Coalition) met and experienced a "remarkable sense of unity". Endorsements and even cautious liberal support are coming in and it "looks like it might be big". (Call or write: Tim Brick - Peoples Action Union 1853 S. Arlington Ave., LA, CA 90019 --213-732-2445 or Laurie Ostrow - ACLU 323 W. 5th St., LA CA --213-626-5156 or Doug Monroy - LA Coalition to Dump Nixon, P.O. Box 1531, Bell, CA 90201.

Chicago recently had a meeting of activists and decided to go ahead with holding a demonstration on April 27th, even though "USIA and liberal grass roots organizers were lukewarm about marching." A kind of united front to Dump Nixon has been formed by the United Farmworkers, VVAW-WSO, Circle Campus Watergate Committee, Lawyers Guild, Students for Action from Oakton Community College, Puerto Rican Socialist Party, New Youth Center in Chinatown, Youth Against War & Fascism, the October League, YAF, and individual rank-&-file activists from around the city. More information on the route of march, etc can be got from VVAW-WSO office (278-5832) during the day and Toni Hall (312-287-9650) at night. NCIM hopes those lukewarm liberals and honestly concerned grass roots organizers get behind this demonstration and help broaden its constituency even further while maintaining the kind of unity Dump/Impeach forces have arrived at in Los Angeles and Washington.

Washington's demonstration size seems at this point to be the biggest question facing us. NCIM has recently received enthusiastic reports from impeachment centers in Pittsburgh, Philly, New York, etc. who are mobilizing support. And though the organized left in Boston was cool to the idea of a D.C. demonstration, several individual activists are now organizing there. Likewise, inquiries are coming in from all

over the East Coast, near Midwest & South and even New England. However, support here on the East Coast has not been strong from liberal noteables who we had hoped would finance, speak at, and endorse the demonstration. (Times & Post reports make impeachment seem inevitable and liberals tend to be overly cautious, afraid of appearing too militant.) Consequently, we are increasingly relying on the energies of radical grass roots organizers to spread the work locally, help people get to Washington and ensure the presence of hometown contingents. The size of the Washington demonstration will be directly related to the amount of organizing done between now and then both in D.C. & at the grass roots level. We intend to continue pursuing the widest base of support (especially financial) by undertaking several direct mailings within the next week. Meanwhile, there are several things local organizers can do to make sure the Washington demonstration, rally and fair are successful:

- 1) Release a local press statement saying you're coming to D.C. and hope the national wire-services will be covering your participation in the spring campaign.
- 2) Quickly write articles advertizing the demonstration and local organizing efforts for your community's alternative press as well as call in to talk shows, get friendly diskjockies to mention April 27th, etc.
- 3) Publicize your efforts to schedule buses, form car pools, or reserve train tickets through any existing newsletters, special mailings, calling previously active people, tabling on the street, etc.
- 4) Be sure you bring hometown banners saying what part of the country you represent to the Washington demonstration and also bring along any petitions which have not yet been delivered to Congress.
- 5) Be prepared to marshal your own contingent, keep it together and assertively deal with any provocation if its happens. Marshals are needed so if you are interested please contact Brian Yaffee or Lucy Witt at 493-3310 if you arrive in Washington a few days before April 27th. Training sessions will be held on 4/23,25 & 26 at 7:30 at Metropolitan APE, 15th & M St., NW, Washington. An additional point here: Buses will probably be parked at 17th Main Navy at the Lincoln Memorial near the reflecting pool where the march begins.
- 6) Organizations, theater groups or imaginative collectives are encouraged to bring/build displays, booths, games, or whatever for the FAIR that will follow the rally. It is our hope that all those organizations who want to "speak to the people" will do so through imaginative presentations during the FAIR and not try to lobby for their speaker or ripp-off the rally which will represent a variety of nonsectarian viewpoints and last only an hour or two.

NIXON'S ORGANIZING AGAINST HIS IMPEACHMENT RIGHT NOW. ARE YOU ORGANIZING FOR IT? SUPPORT THE SPRING CAMPAIGN AND APRIL 27TH.

THE PEOPLE HAVE MADE IMPEACHMENT A POSSIBILITY: ONLY THE PEOPLE CAN MAKE SURE IT HAPPENS NOW!