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The greatest single source of Watergate: irrigation water in areas of low dependendent We are appalled at the kind of men to their constitutional basis. Watergate staff. Watergate do and surround- In must admit our com- affair cover- to re- and the Committee to Re-elect if hear- confes- that sometimes our own loyalty House horrors.

Concern over Watergate Events
break-in, its cover-up, It We must be any change in the contours of a few hundred acres of our land, in the rush of water in our streams, in the habi- tab of our wildlife. But this must happen to allow us to provide more water for the people who live in our towns and cities, for supple- mental irrigation water in areas of low agricultural income, for growing more food to meet a frightening worldwide food shortfall. First things must come first.

The last paragraph of the letter many of you are being asked to send to Secretary Morton suggests that there are “ample alternatives” to the Bonneville project. I do not know what they are. We must develop and put to beneficial use every drop of water we have within the State of Utah if the State is to have water for the future and put to use Colorado River water, underground water, water from every little stream and backyard well. Until we find an alterna- tive to water, there is no alternative in Utah to full development of the waters of the Colorado River and its tribu- taries—our greatest single source of water.

The Bonneville Unit Plan was adopted in good faith by the people of Utah and it has become the basis for contracts and agreements with the Federal Govern- ment, and between various interests con- cerned, including the Central Utah Water Conservancy District, the Salt Lake County Water Conservancy Dis- trict, the Ute Indian Tribe and the State of Utah.

Construction has been brought to a standstill by the present controversy. To require that Bonneville be restudied, re- evaluated and reformulated—be held up for any length of time whatsoever now or in the future—would be catastrophic.

I ask my colleagues to disregard any request that come to them to write the Secretary of the Interior to hold up the Bonneville Unit for further study, and I ask for your support in getting this most important, this most indispensable project, moving again. We do not start anew; we only continue what is now un- derway.

Earlier today the Governor of Utah and the entire Utah congressional delega- tion visited Secretary Morton with this unanimous urgent request.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Watergate events constitute a serious moral crisis for the nation. Too many citizens cynically accept these events as normal and traditional political exercise. We cannot agree. We are appalled at the kind of mentality that justifies burglary in the name of national security, encourages federal bungling, and institutionalizes the lie that frustrates the electoral process with dirty tricks and political corruption. This is not “politics as usual.” For it is doubtful that anyone can find anywhere in American his- tory government corruption of such magnitude.

Although, as a Christian body, we acknowl- edge our country’s need for repentance with judgment with mercy, we must declare our moral outrage over the Watergate break-in, its cover-up, and other illegal or unethical campaign-re- lated activities. We are专场ing on the basis of our belief in the strong probability of corruption among those who exercise excessive power.

In the 1972 General Conference of our United Methodist Church declared: “A free citizenry in a democracy is dependent upon access to truthful information in order to arrive at an informed decision.” And: “The Christian faith stresses the dignity of and respect for human personality. Invasion of the privacy of an ordinary citizen of society negates this dignity and the perversion of the Christian faith is supportive of a society which elicits hope and trust, not a society that foments fear and threats oppression.”

We, therefore, have mixed feelings about Watergate—moments of righteous anger, moments of shame, moments of compassion for its victims and their families, moments of disgust at those cheated by power, moments of pride that the system has thus far survived a constitutional crisis, moments of wondering if any reforms or safeguarding can prevent such processes against perverse manipulations.

At the same time we must admit our com- mon guilt for what is currently ailing the body politic. Some of us are tempted to relish the plight of those we dislike, to focus on the sins of others whose faults are unable to escape pub- lic scrutiny. Meanwhile ours remain in unpubli- cized oblivion.

We confess that sometimes our own loyalty to institutions and leadership takes prece- dence over conscience.

We acknowledge that too long have we tolerated an electoral process that places candidates for high office under compro- mising obligation to special interest. Even if some of our candidates have been exonerated. Nevertheless, we are greatly disturbed about specific aspects of Watergate and surround- ing events:

That certain persons high in the White House staff and the Committee to Re-elect the President engaged in a campaign to elect President Nixon that they deceived the

American public, and made an informed and responsible election decision impossible.

That the basic rights of all citizens were endangered through illegal wiretapping and criminal burglary carried out in the name of “national security.”

That deliberate obstruction of justice was justified for the sake of entrenched power.

That independent agencies, such as the FBI and CIA, were pressured into partial cooperation with illegal aims of Executive staff.

That campaign contributions, received as a public trust, were diverted into payment for commission of criminal acts, for legal defen- dants, and for the performance of “dirty tricks.”

That corporations and individuals, in a dangerous form of political extortion, were coerced into making substantial illegal contrib- utions under the fear of reprisals and in order to maintain influence within government.

In the course of the Watergate hearings, we have been disturbed by the use of language to minimize the full character of many illegal or immoral acts performed. For instance, the term “dirty trick” has been used to cover domestic actions taken out of partisan political consideration and without regard to any substantiated foreign research, and also to disguise euphemisms where burglary becomes “sur- repitious entry,” breaking and entering be- come “intelligence-gathering operations,” and government-sponsored crimes are called “White House horrors.”

There are many things that we still do not know or understand about Watergate: When the House Banking and Banking Committee to prevent its members from holding hearings on Watergate in August of 1972, hearings that might have been expected to explore the Watergate hearings.

Could the President be shielded so completely from knowledge of the cover-up that even the members of the House Banking and Currency Committee, the Senate Banking and Currency Committee, the Senate Intelligence Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, and the Senate Rules Committee have been actively conspiring to “keep the lid on?”

Who in the White House authorized the burglary of Daniel Ellsberg’s psychiatrist’s office, to gain access to confidential medical records?

Yet we do know that the Watergate cover- up was effective and that, by the obstruc- tion and destruction of evidence, the Presi- dential aides have done thousands of crimes over the period since February 28, 1972.

We do know that the President’s political associates, inside and outside the White House, became deeply involved, not only in covering up the Watergate break-in, but also in other deplorable activities tending to sub- ver the political process.

We do know that a thorough attempt was made by Presidential aides to keep the in- formation on the cover-up from the Ameri- can public.

Those responsible for such flagrant wrong- doing should be prosecuted for violations of the law. Yet they are entitled, as are all Americans citizens, to the full safeguards of the judicial process. Any extinguishing cir- cumstances should be given consideration in particular cases.

III. WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

Watergate and surrounding events make clear to us that American governmen- tal reforms are in order: (1) The American political system must be im- proved; (2) the accessibility of the President and his associates to elected office should be enhanced; and (3) certain powers being currently exercised by the office of the President must be examined as to their co-stitutional basis.

The Political System: The Executive Com- mitttee of the Board of Church and Society
registers its support of the following measures:

Strict limitations on the amount an individual or organization may contribute to the presidential campaign of any given candidate or party.

A carefully devised form of public financing for a substantial part of national election campaign costs.

Only those campaign committees that are willing to meet the requirements of the Federal Elections Commission with the power to enforce as well as monitor election laws.

Development of checks and safeguards to keep the Executive branch from using the instruments of government power to attack political adversaries.

Elimination of the use of wiretapping and electronic surveillance by public authorities without a specific court order, as an unwarranted invasion of privacy in line with the Supreme Court's ruling.

Striving to have the independent agencies so as to enable them to withstand improper pressures, whether by the Executive branch of the federal government, by Congress, or by any of the three branches of government.

Establishing effective Congressional oversight of the FBI and the CIA, both in regard to budget and expenditures and in regard to policies and operations.

Accessibility of the President: We offer the following suggestions with respect to making the office of the President more open:

(1) The President should be willing to meet personally, from time to time, with responsible representatives from the various major segments of society.

(2) The President and his executive branch and agency heads should be expected to appear regularly as requested before the Congress and its respective Committees and to make public the policies and performance of their departments and agencies.

The Constitutional Powers of the Presidency. The Constitution was initially formulated to "establish justice, Insure domestic tranquility ... protect the Constitution of the United States." Under the Constitution the office of the President, including the White House staff, is subject to the laws of the country.

In light of the provisions of the First Amendment of the Constitution the public has the right to know and to be informed in support of such high purposes and we now affirm our continuing faith in the validity of these lofty principles.

When the President takes the oath of office he (she) affirms that "I will . . . will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States."

the needs of our fellow men. I am greatly encouraged by the passage of the Senate last week of the $30 million foreign aid bill, which would emphasize agricultural production, population planning, and health, precisely those areas of need so evident on my visit to Upper Volta.

I have cosponsored a bill, S. 2241, with Senator Humphrey, Senator Pearson, and Senator Kennedy, that would authorize $30 million for relief and rehabilitation in the six West African Sahel countries of Upper Volta, Mali, Senegal, Chad, Niger, and Mauritania. This is a necessary step to provide funds for the relief effort and to begin the process of alleviating the drought area. The United States has already provided $4.7 million in fiscal year 1973 for disaster relief in the area, and an additional amount of about $5 million is projected for use in fiscal year 1974.

I arrived in Ouagadougou, the capital of Upper Volta, on the morning of August 29, 1973. On my arrival I visited an airdrop bagging operation at the airport. U.S. Peace Corps volunteers, local and red Cross volunteers were loading planes in preparation for transporting sorghum seed, provided by the United States, as well as food supplies from French, Belgian, and West German planes into the remote areas of the country.

I next visited an indigents' center, where the needs of the old and infirm were being met. I also visited the rural market town of a cash- and-carry system of distribution to the people who are employed and the money is used to underwrite the cost of transporting the grain into the country by truck.

During my stay in Ouagadougou I met a number of government officials, including the Prime Minister Gerard Kango and the French Ambassador. The government ministers were thoroughly appreciative of American aid and were on excellent terms with the U.S. Embassy. Much of the credit for this cordial attitude toward the United States must go to the outstanding work of the U.S. Ambassador in Upper Volta, Mr. Donald Easum. Also the Peace Corps was well received and well liked by the ministers.

The government ministers and other officials stressed that their primary needs are already emergency millet and sorghum for next year. For, although a new crop is coming in, it will clearly be inadequate for more than a few months beyond the harvest season, which is used for food, and so many of the cattle have died from starvation. Their other important needs are water, for irrigation and well digging; conservation, especially reforestation; and control of black flies, which cause blindness. They feared an epidemic of dysentery and diarrhoea, which resulted in 30 percent of the best farmland being evacuated.

I emphasized the humanitarian basis of the aid in my discussions with Upper Volta officials, and I urged them to be "humanitarian" in return, most particularly with regard to terrorism. This appeal to responsible action in the councils of developing countries was well received by the ministers.

I commend to my colleagues a thorough analysis of the situation in the