

# *REMEMBERING WATERGATE: THE MINNESOTA CONNECTIONS*



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**MEYER NJUS TANICK**

**50th ANNIVERSARY: JUNE 17, 1972**

# WATERGATE RECALLED

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# FACTS & FIGURES

Who: 5 Burglars (look out across the street)

What: 3<sup>rd</sup> Break-In

When: Friday night, June 16 - Saturday morning, June 17, 1972

Where: Washington, D.C.

Why: \*Incriminating data about DNC \$ raising?

\*Defensive search for DNC campaign materials?

\*Prostitution lists & “Johns”?

How: “3<sup>rd</sup> – rate Burglary,” Ronald Ziegler Press Secretary of “no concern” to President Nixon





# CAST OF CHARACTERS

- ▣ James McCord: Chief Burglar
- ▣ Gordon Liddy: Organizer
- ▣ Howard Hunt: CIA/White House Operative
- ▣ Charles Colson: White House Counselor
- ▣ Donald Segretti: Dirty Trickster
- ▣ Frank Wills: Watergate Security Guard
- ▣ Bernstein & Woodward: The Washington



Carl Bernstein & Bob Woodward

## Post reporters

- ▣ Mark Felt: “Deep Throat”
- ▣ John Mitchell, CREEP Manager
- ▣ ... and his wife, Martha
- ▣ Judge John Sirica: the Watergate Judge
- ▣ John Dean: White House Lawyer – “cancer on the Presidency” (March 17, 1973)
- ▣ Sen. Sam Ervin: Committee Chair
- ▣ Rep. Peter Rodino: House Judiciary Chair



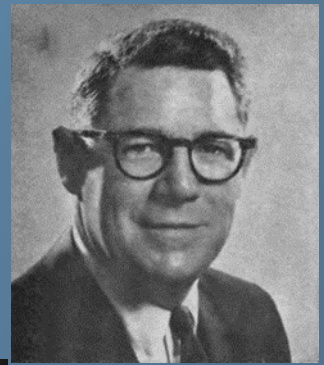
John Dean



Donald Segretti



# LOCAL LINKS



Clark MacGregor

**Kenneth Dahlberg:** CREEP \$25,000 Contributor  
(Golden Valley Miracle Ear Founder)

**Dwayne Andreas:** Fundraiser & “Lawsuit”  
(Archer Daniels Midland)

**Clark MacGregor:** Head of CREEP (Committee to Re-elect the President), Congressman from 3<sup>rd</sup> District Western, Hennepin County suburbs

**Maurice Stans:** Department of Commerce, “bagman” for fundraising, native of Shakopee

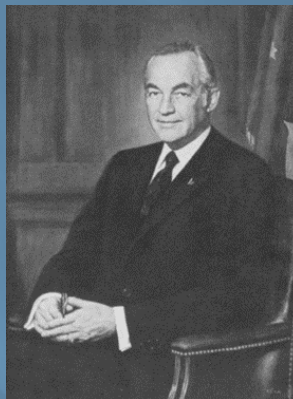
**Charles Colson:** Top Nixon aide, Later head of Minnesota-based Prison Fellowship Organization



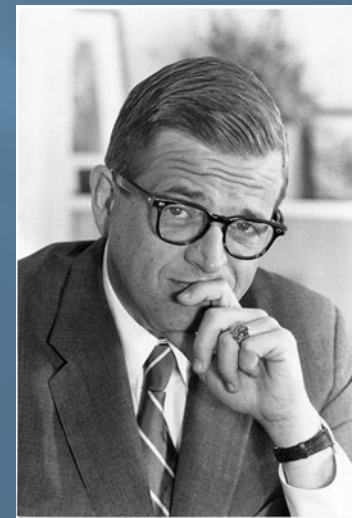
Kenneth Dahlberg (right)



Dahlberg Drive, Golden Valley



Maurice Stans



Charles Colson





Archer Daniels Midland

# MINNESOTA MATTERS

***U.S. v. Andreas* (1974): illegal contributions to *HHH v. Nixon* in 1968**

***\*Wide latitude of special prosecutor challenged Acquittal: Loans from owner repaid***

***U.S. v. 3M* (1977): Prior guilty plea of illegal campaign funding by company officials bars later changes**

***Stanger v. Gordon* (1976): \$34,000 verdict for fraud due to “cover-up” closing argument by lawyer because of “inflammatory manner”**



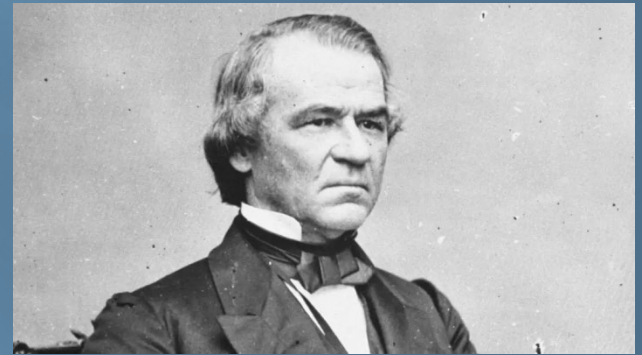
Dwane Andreas



# ADDITIONAL ACTIONS

\*Impeachment – “High crimes & Misdemeanors”

- a. Andrew Johnson (1868)
- b. Richard Nixon (1974)
- c. Bill Clinton (1998)
- d. Donald Trump (2020 & 2021)



# IMBROGLIO IMPACT

- ▣ Campaign contributions Laws . . . . Citizens United Case
- ▣ Employee Rights . . . . . Whistleblowing Laws
- ▣ Minnesota Statutes: Data Practices . . . . Privacy Laws
- ▣ Jimmy Carter . . . . . Iran Hostages
- ▣ Special Prosecutor/Independent  
Counsel . . . . . Robert Mueller, et al.
- ▣ Secret Tapes (again) . . . . . Trump I (Ukraine)
- ▣ The Insurrection . . . . . Trump II (Out of Office)
- ▣ 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment . . . . . An Alternative



**Impeach President Trump? Nah. But invoke the 25th Amendment? Hmm ...**  
**It lets the veep and agency chiefs replace a president, perhaps temporarily, if he's**  
**"unable" to carry out his duties. A respite might be good.**

**By Marshall H. Tanick**

As President Trump's behavior gets weirder and more dangerous by the day, his lawful removal from office becomes increasingly desirable, if not imperative.

Some Democrats and a few others have been pining to initiate an impeachment effort. But they are barking up the wrong tree.

Those who have experienced the presidential impeachment proceedings of former President Bill Clinton, resulting in his 1999 acquittal; or against the late President Richard Nixon leading up to his 1974 resignation; or those who recall from leading to his 1974 resignation; or those who recall from history President Andrew Johnson's one-vote impeachment-trial victory, know full well that trying to oust a president for "high Crimes and Misdemeanors," the term used in Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution, is a grueling, time-consuming, divisive ordeal awash with partisan considerations.



*President Trump emerging  
Marine One. May 16, 2017*

## 25th Amendment cont.

But there is a different constitutionally sanctioned (although still untested) means of removing a president. It could be more efficient and, above all, effective. And to make it more enticing, it has a Minnesota lineage of sorts.

The process that could produce the much-needed termination of the Trump presidency is removal due to disability under the 25th Amendment

The measure was adopted in 1967 in the wake of the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy, which elevated then-Vice President Lyndon Johnson to the White House, leaving a vacancy in Johnson's former position. That in turn had left two elderly members of Congress next in line for succession, a deficiency that Congress remedied by passage of the 25th Amendment that established a method for filling a vacancy in the vice presidency — and also empowered the vice president to serve as “acting president” during a president's disability.

Minnesota was one of the last two states (along with Nevada) that gave the final needed ratifications to make the amendment part of the Constitution. As it happens, Minnesota's Hubert Humphrey was vice president (having been elected in 1964) when it went into effect 50 years ago.

The process for filling a veep vacancy has been invoked twice — both surrounding the Nixon administration. First, Gerald Ford was selected to replace Spiro Agnew, who resigned in disgrace and under criminal charges; later, Nelson Rockefeller was chosen as Ford's vice president when Ford replaced Nixon as president.

## 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment (cont.)

But it's a different portion of the amendment that could be the key to dismantling the Trump presidency. It's the section that allows replacement of a president who is considered to be "unable" to carry out the duties of the office. The process has been utilized three times, all for short-term periods of incapacity while presidents were undergoing colonoscopies — first with Ronald Reagan and later, twice, for George W. Bush. Surprisingly, it was not invoked when President Reagan was in surgery and post-op recovery after he was shot by a would-be assassin in 1981.

The key section of the 25th Amendment authorizes replacement of the president if the vice president and a majority of the heads of executive branch departments, not just Cabinet posts, furnish statements to Congress deeming the current White House occupant to be "unable to discharge the powers and duties of his [sic] office." (The measure did not contemplate, my gosh, a woman president, when drafted five decades ago.)

The system can seem Machiavellian. The amendment goes on to allow the temporarily sidelined president to reclaim the office if he (or she) transmits a statement to both houses of Congress of renewed fitness for duty.

That's where the process might turn into something like a Netflix series. If they don't agree with the president's self-assessment of capacity to resume the Oval Office, the vice president, serving as acting president, joined by a majority of executive department principals, have up to four days to challenge the president's intention to return to the job.



## 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment (cont.)

This would unleash a frenzy. Congress has three weeks to decide who gets the keys to the White House. To keep the elected president locked out, two-thirds of the members of Congress must vote in favor of the vice president, although the amendment is ambiguous about whether two-thirds is required in each body separately, or among all members of Congress collectively. The amendment refers to a two-thirds vote in “both Houses,” which could be interpreted either way. So if the two-thirds threshold were met in one chamber, and in Congress as a whole, but not in the other house, the third branch of government would become involved — the Supreme Court would probably be called upon to adjudicate the outcome. This would allow the justices to choose the president for the first time since they gave the position to George W. Bush in 2000.

Forget about Netflix; this starts looking like a pro wrestling battle royale.

Going this route would require some degree of backbone from Vice President Mike Pence, who would have to initiate the constitutionally endorsed coup. He also would need the backing of a cabal of Cabinet officials and other executive department chiefs. It wouldn't hurt to have the backing of a sizable segment of Congress, especially the Republicans who control both houses. To pursue this path, it also would help to have substantial public support, maybe even from some segments of Trump's ever-loyal but declining base.

It's difficult to imagine all of these threads being woven together. But if they don't fall into place, the nation faces the prospect of descending into ever-spiraling crises caused by what many are now viewing as a maniacal occupant of the White House who is mentally unhinged and could, if he were a kindergartner — and he acts like one at times — use a timeout.

The constitutional process was created, no doubt, in contemplation of some type of physical disability. But its language is not restricted. It could apply to any condition or circumstance rendering a president “unable” to perform the duties of the position.

A mental health crisis or severe emotional affliction could undoubtedly justify the replacement process, on a temporary basis or a permanent one, depending upon developments.

## 25th Amendment cont.

In the campaign, and ever since, President Trump has often promised that things soon would be different. This may be the occasion to try, for the first time, a temporary hiatus under the 25th Amendment that would allow him some time off. He could retreat to his Florida compound, where he spends an inordinate amount of time anyway, and get away from that swamp in the nation's capital, enjoy some fresh air, golf a bit and eat plenty of ice cream.

The respite might allow him to regain any equilibrium he once may have had and return anew to D.C., refreshed, revitalized and ready to resume the presidency. Or, it could lead him to declare that others should take the job and do what he has been doing to the nation: Shove it!

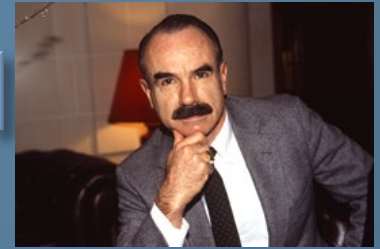
Either way, it's time to have someone fit for duty in the Oval Office. Invoking the 25th Amendment might achieve that laudable objective.

Plus, it might make for great reality TV.

Questions?



# Watergate Trivia - 1



- ▣ 1. What law enforcement agency did G. Gordon Liddy formerly work for?
- ▣ 2. How many years did he spend in prison?
- ▣ 3. What was the title of John Dean's tell-all book?
- ▣ 4. What was the name of the Martha Mitchell Starz series this year?
- ▣ 5. What two Academy Award winners starred in the series?



# Watergate Trivia - 2



- ▣ 6. Who did a post-Watergate 4-part TV interview with President Nixon?
- ▣ 7. Who was Nixon's secretary with the 18 minute tape gap?
- ▣ 8. What Watergate figure became a post-jail fiction author?
- ▣ 9. Who became a minister?
- ▣ 10. Did you enjoy this presentation?





# The End!

"All the News  
That's Fit to Print"

## The New York Times

LATE CITY EDITION

Weather: Partly cloudy today; cool tonight. Fair, pleasant tomorrow. Temp.: today 65-74; Thursday 64-83. Highest Temp.-Hum. Index yesterday: 75. Details on Page 66.

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15 CENTS

# NIXON RESIGNS

## HE URGES A TIME OF 'HEALING'; FORD WILL TAKE OFFICE TODAY

### 'Sacrifice' Is Praised; Kissinger to Remain

By ANTHONY RIPLEY  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8—I will pledge to you tomorrow Vice President Ford, praised and in the future, my best of President Nixon tonight for "one of the greatest personal sacrifices for the country and for America and good for the world," he said.

Mr. Ford, who will take office as the 38th President, at noon tomorrow, vowed to continue Mr. Nixon's foreign policy and announced that Secretary of State Kissinger had agreed to stay on in the new Administration.

"I pledge to you tonight, as Vice President, to continue the policies of the Nixon Administration. I will speak at 6 P.M.

Speculation Rife  
ON VICE PRESIDENT

Some Ford Associates Say  
Selecting a Successor  
Could Take Weeks

By CHRISTOPHER LYDON  
Special to The New York Times

Vice President Ford meeting with newsmen last night

President Nixon on TV as he announced his resignation

### POLITICAL SCENE SHARPLY ALTERED

G.O.P. Prospects Improved  
Ford in Good Spot for '76  
and Watergate Fades

### Rise and Fall Appraisal of Nixon Career

By ROBERT R. SCHMIDT  
Special to The New York Times

### JAWORSKI ASSERTS NO DEAL WAS MADE

Says Nixon Did Not Ask for  
and Was Not Given a Deal  
to Avoid Prosecution

### The 37th President Is First to Quit Post

By JOHN HERRERS  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8—Richard Milhous Nixon, the 37th President of the United States, announced tonight that he had given up his long and arduous fight to remain in office and would resign, effective at noon tomorrow.

Gerald Rudolph Ford, whom Mr. Nixon nominated for Vice President last Oct. 12, will be sworn in tomorrow at the same hour as the 38th President, to serve out the 895 days remaining in Mr. Nixon's second term.

Less than two years after his landslide re-election victory, Mr. Nixon, in a conciliatory address on national television, said that he was leaving not with a sense of bitterness but with a hope that his departure would start a "process of healing that is so desperately needed in America."

He spoke of regret for any "injuries" done "in the course of the events that led to this decision." He acknowledged that some of his judgments had been wrong.

The 61-year-old Mr. Nixon, appearing calm and resigned to his fate as a victim of the Watergate scandal, became the first President in the history of the Republic to resign from office. Only 10 months earlier his first Vice President, Spiro T. Agnew, became the first man to resign the Vice Presidency.

Contrast in Tone and Content  
Mr. Nixon, speaking from the Oval Office, where his successor will be sworn in tomorrow, may well have delivered his most effective speech since the Watergate scandal began to swamp his Administration.

In tone and content, the 15-minute address contrasted to his frequently rambling, impetuous style of the past, especially his first "farewell" appearance—that of 1962, when