



Articles Of Impeachment

Committee on the Judiciary
 Eighty-Ninth Congress

January 24, 1966

John Kennedy: Articles of Impeachment (1966) / FIRST DRAFT for Committee Consideration

Articles of impeachment exhibited by the House of Representatives of the United States of America in the name of itself and of the people of the United States of America, against John Fitzgerald Kennedy, President of the United States of America, in maintenance and support of its impeachment against him for high crimes and misdemeanors.

Resolved, that John Fitzgerald Kennedy, President of the United States, is impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors, and that the following articles of impeachment be exhibited to the United States Senate:

ARTICLE I

ABUSE OF POWER

Using the powers of the office of President of the United States, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, in violation of his constitutional oath faithfully to execute the office of President of the United States and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in disregard of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, has repeatedly engaged in conduct violating the constitutional rights of citizens, imparting the due and proper administration of justice and the conduct of lawful inquiries, or contravening the laws governing agencies of the executive branch and the purposes of these agencies.

This conduct has included one or more of the following:

(1) He misused the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and other executive personnel, in violation or disregard of the constitutional rights of citizens, by directing or authorizing such agencies or personnel to conduct or continue electronic surveillance or other investigations for purposes unrelated to national security, the enforcement of laws, or any other lawful function of his office; he did direct, authorize, or permit the use of information obtained thereby for purposes unrelated to national security, the enforcement of laws, or any other lawful function of his office. He has caused FBI files to be used to prevent U.S. media sources from reporting information which would be personally embarrassing to the President and potentially critical to the security of the United States of America. Further, to avoid public knowledge of his own personal indiscretions, he did direct

the Attorney General to approve an FBI request for extensive electronic surveillance of, among other citizens, Martin Luther King Jr.

(2) He misused the Secret Service, and other executive personnel, by directing or authorizing such agencies or personnel to ignore national security protocols and measures aimed at protecting the personal safety of the President of the United States. His pattern of extreme private recklessness caused public funds and priorities to be shifted to accommodate and conceal these activities and brought the President into intimate contact with individuals known for their organized crime connections; and others suspected of international espionage of behalf of enemies of the United States of America. By such conduct, he placed the President of the United States in a position of potential blackmail to the severe detriment of the nation in general. Further, by undermining his own Secret Service detail, he contributed to their lack of readiness during the fatal attack on Texas Governor John Connally and Secret Service agent Clint Hill on November 22, 1963.

(3) He violated federal law by maintaining direct and indirect dealings with organized crime, both giving and taking bribes; maintaining an intimate relationship with one Judith Campbell, known to him as having ties to the Giancana crime family and using her to carry cash payments. Such payments were intended to secure organized crime assistance in the assassination of a foreign leader and to secure presidential support for Department of Defense contracts. These payments began in 1960 and may have materially altered the outcome of the 1960 presidential election.

(4) He put the nation at risk by maintaining an intimate relationship with one Ellen Rometsch, known to him as having ties to East German government officials, and when threatened with exposure, used FBI files against members of the media, to secure their silence.

(5) He has directed aides, employed by the government of the United States, to act on his behalf in the procurement of women for acts of prostitution and had them delivered to the White House and other locations under the jurisdiction of the United States.

(6) He has, acting personally and through his subordinates and agents, unlawfully exercised powers as Commander-in-Chief by approving the assassination of foreign leaders, including Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba of the Congo in January 1961; Prime Minister Rafael Trujillo of the Dominican Republic in May of 1961; and Premiere Ngo Dinh Diem of South Vietnam in November of 1963. He acted personally and through his subordinates and agents to unlawfully and repeatedly attempt the assassination of Fidel Castro of Cuba, contributing to the confrontation with the Soviet Union over nuclear missiles in Cuba in October, 1962 and the attempted assassination of the President of the United States on November 22, 1963.

(7) He has, acting personally and through his subordinates and agents, willfully sought to falsify medical records which pertained to his health and his ability to carry out the duties of the President of the United States to full capacity. By such action, he has deprived the people of the United States of their ability to judge their own safety and security as entrusted to the President by keeping them ignorant of

diseases suffered, drugs used and in what manner and other of his potential impairments.

In all of this, John Fitzgerald Kennedy has undermined the integrity of his office, has brought disrepute on the Presidency, has betrayed his trust as President, and has acted in a manner subversive of the rule of law and justice, to the manifest injury of the people of the United States.

Wherefore, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, by such conduct, warrants impeachment and trial, and removal from office and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust or profit under the United States.

ARTICLE II

OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

In his conduct while President of the United States, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, in violation of his constitutional oath faithfully to execute the office of President of the United States and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, has willfully corrupted and manipulated the judicial process of the United States for his personal gain and exoneration, impeding the administration of justice, in that:

(1) He has failed to act when he knew or had reason to know that his close subordinates endeavored to impede and frustrate lawful inquiries by duly constituted executive, judicial and legislative entities concerning the attempted assassination of the President of the United States of America in Dallas, Texas on November 22, 1963, and the cover-up thereof; investigations which include the House/Senate Joint Committee on the Attempted Assassination of the President (JCAAP), the trial of Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas, Texas and the House Judiciary Committee impeachment inquiry.

(2) On November 29, 1963, he issued Executive Order 11130, creating the presidential commission known as the Warren Commission, with the specific purpose of controlling that investigation and to obscure the truth in order to stall other lawful inquiries.

(3) He has, acting personally and through his subordinates and agents, endeavored to obtain from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), in violation of the constitutional rights of citizens, confidential information contained in income tax returns for purposes not authorized by law, and to cause, in violation of the constitutional rights of citizens, income tax audits or other income tax investigation to be initiated or conducted in a discriminatory manner. He has placed a "Special Consultant to the President" inside the Internal Revenue Service in order to target groups and individuals for audits and revocation of tax-exempt status.

(4) On June 13, 1965, in sworn answers to written questions asked as part of a government investigation, he willfully provided perjurious,

false and misleading testimony in response to questions deemed relevant by a congressional committee.

(5) On September 7, 1965, John Fitzgerald Kennedy swore under oath to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth in testimony before the House Judiciary Committee considering the impeachment of the President. Contrary to that oath, John Fitzgerald Kennedy willfully provided perjurious, false and misleading testimony in response to questions deemed relevant by that committee.

(6) He has made or caused to be made false or misleading statements to lawfully authorized investigative officers and employees of the United States. He has corruptly urged subordinates and agents of the executive branch to provide perjurious, false and misleading testimony to Joint Committee on the Attempted Assassination of the President, the Warren Commission, the state trial in Texas for Lee Harvey Oswald and before the House Judiciary Committee. He has participated in:

(a) Approving, condoning, acquiescing in, and counseling witnesses with respect to the giving of false or misleading statements to lawfully authorized investigative officers and employees of the United States and false or misleading testimony in duly instituted judicial and congressional proceedings.

(b) Approving, condoning, and acquiescing in, the surreptitious payments of substantial sums of money for the purpose of obtaining the silence or influencing the testimony of witnesses, potential witnesses or individuals who participated in or had knowledge of illegal activities.

(c) Making false or misleading public statements for the purpose of deceiving the people of the United States into believing that a thorough and complete investigation has been conducted with respect to allegation of misconduct on the part of personnel of the Executive Branch of the United States, and that there was no involvement of such personnel in such misconduct.

(d) Endeavoring to cause prospective defendants, and individuals duly tried and convicted, to expect favored treatment and consideration in return for their silence or false testimony, or rewarding individuals for their silence or false testimony.

In all of this, John Fitzgerald Kennedy has undermined the integrity of his office, has brought disrepute on the Presidency, has betrayed his trust as President, and has acted in a manner subversive of the rule of law and justice, to the manifest injury of the people of the United States.

Wherefore, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, by such conduct, warrants impeachment and trial, and removal from office and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust or profit under the United States.

ARTICLE III**CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS**

In his conduct of the office of President of the United States, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, contrary to his oath faithfully to execute the office of the President of the United States, and to the best of his ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, had failed without lawful cause or excuse, to produce papers and audio-tape recordings as directed by duly authorized subpoenas issued by the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, on December 11, 1965, and willfully disobeyed such subpoenas.

The subpoenaed papers and audio-tape recordings were deemed necessary by the Committee in order to resolve by direct evidence, the fundamental, factual questions relating to Presidential direction, knowledge or approval of actions demonstrated by other evidence to be substantial grounds for impeachment of the President.

(1) In refusing to produce these papers and things, he has substituted his own judgment as to what materials were necessary for the inquiry, interposed the powers of the Presidency against the lawful subpoenas of the House of Representatives, thereby assuming to himself functions and judgments necessary to the exercise of the sole power of impeachment vested by Constitution in the House of Representatives.

(2) He has directed the physical destruction of both subpoenaed papers and audio-tape recordings, and this action has been taken at his request by David Powers, acting as a personal aide to the President of the United States.

In all this, John Fitzgerald Kennedy has acted in a manner contrary to his trust as President and subversive of constitutional government, to the great prejudice of the cause of law and justice, and to the manifest injury of the people of the United States.

Wherefore, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, by such conduct, warrants impeachment and trial, and removal from office and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust or profit under the United States.