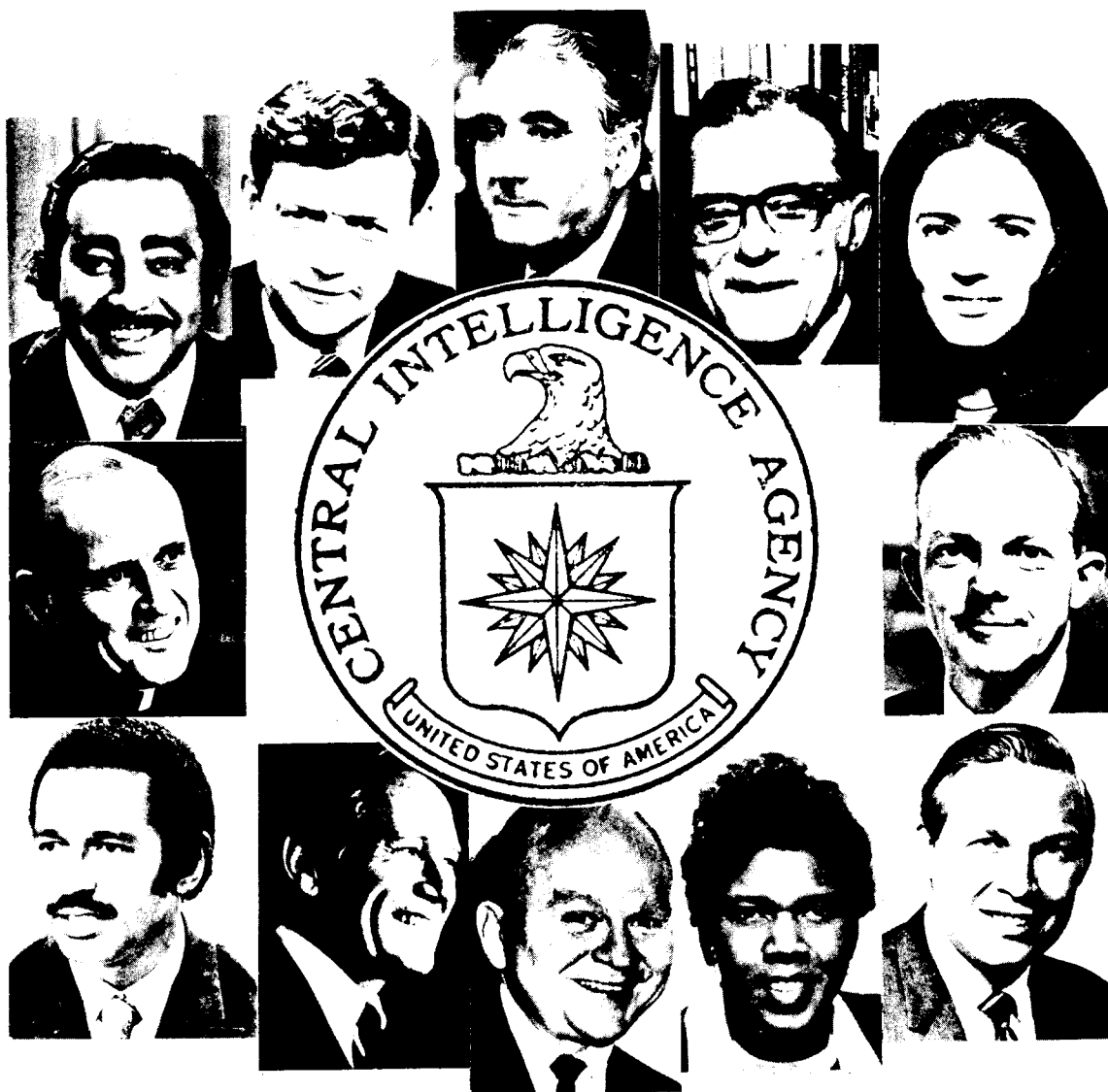


watergate**Article II: Designed for Military Government**

Clockwise from top, center: Rodino, Jenner, Holtzman, Seibering, Kastenmeier, Jordan, Danielson, Edwards, Conyers, Drinan, Rangel, Doar

WASHINGTON, D.C., Aug. 1 (IPS) — With the passage of the second Article of Impeachment of Richard Nixon, the House Judiciary Committee has put a foot in the door for the establishment of military rule in the United States over the coming months. The Article, passed by the Rockefeller-controlled House Judiciary Committee on July 29, is a calculated act of subversion, designed to destroy democratic constitutional government by declaring the President accountable to non-elected executive agencies — the CIA, FBI and the Pentagon — rather than to the people of the United States.

at the last moment, charges the President with abuse of his powers for interfering with agencies of the executive branch. This reverses the fundamental principle of constitutional government which holds non-elected agencies accountable to elected officials. If the article passes the House and the Senate, Rockefeller will have succeeded in principle in cutting the CIA, and FBI and the Pentagon loose from any control, save his own! By severing these military and para-military organizations from executive control, and indeed making the President subservient to them, Rockefeller will have established the principle of the military junta in the United States.

The key paragraph, which was inserted into Article II

Any Congressman in the House or the Senate who now

votes for Article II is giving his approval to the enabling legislation for a Rockefeller-directed military takeover.

The initial shape of that takeover has been well telegraphed by various Rockefeller agents — a civilian-military government of national unity. “Senior statesman” of the cabal Clark Clifford floated the idea over a year ago. Counsel of Foreign Relations member and chairman of the Institute for Defense Analysis General Maxwell Taylor in April wrote of the need for a “domestic National Security Agency” of civilians and military. Marcus Raskin, of the CIA-connected Institute for Policy Studies, was most explicit two months ago in calling for the nullification of the Presidency in the event of an impeachment vote, and for the establishment of a Committee of National Reconciliation.

With the passage of Article II Rockefeller has his foot in the door toward military and police rule even before the President is actually voted out of office.

The key section of the second Impeachment Article is paragraph five:

“In disregard of the rule of law, he knowingly misused the executive power by interfering with agencies of the executive branch, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Criminal Division, and the Office of the Watergate Special Prosecutor, of the Department of Justice, and the Central Intelligence Agency, in violation of his duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed.”

This paragraph, which nowhere specifies any abuse other than the mere interference in these agencies, was introduced in the last minute drafting of Article II, on the Sunday night before the final Monday vote. Rockefeller, taking stock of the momentum gained in the large bipartisan vote on the first article, apparently decided that he had the capability to make his final push against Nixon. Either Chief Counsel John Doar, Chairman Peter Rodino or the host of other agents on the Committee activated paragraph five, which had not appeared in any previous drafts of Article II.

Only a few Republican stalwarts on the Committee recognized that fundamental changes were afoot. In the debate on Monday, Charles Wiggins of California protested, “If we are to declare punishable that conduct which is not illegal under our laws,...we ought to recognize the momentous nature of such a decision because we are taking a step toward a parliamentary system of government in this country rather than the constitutional system we now have.” But Wiggins and the handful of Republicans opposing the article were outnumbered; Rockefeller had long since packed the Judiciary Committee.

Senate Follows Suit

On the heels of the breakthrough Judiciary Committee vote, Rockefeller’s other spokesmen in Congress moved quickly to further emasculation of the constitution and the Presidency. On July 31, Senate Majority leader Mike

Mansfield proposed changing the rules of impeachment in the Senate to allow Senators to act as judges of the law as well as fact. With a simple majority vote, the Senate could thereby usurp the powers of the Supreme Court and revise the Constitution.

Wasting no time, Rockefeller’s leading NATO agent in the Senate, Jake Javits, along with Senators Hubert Humphrey and Edmund Muskie, introduced legislation on August 1 which would further constrict the power of the president by making him more accountable to Congress.

This ostensible move toward greater Congressional power, so pompously touted by the subversives on the Judiciary Committee is a smokescreen. Rockefeller knows that in the current economic collapse, the Congress — based on the ability to grant concessions to narrow, parochial interests — can no longer rule. Since mid-April, when the inevitability of a credit collapse became clear, Rockefeller has succeeded in establishing austerity governments, headed by Giscard d’Estaing in France, Helmut Schmidt in West Germany and Foreign Minister Callaghan in England. Waiting in the wings, once these government heads have played out their usefulness, is NATO.

In the United States that executive ability will not lie in the presidency. Once Richard Nixon is removed, he will be replaced by the nondescript Jerry Ford, whose role was spelled out very clearly in the *Washington Post* of August 1, “We all want Jerry to shut up and stay that way. He is the hope of the party and of the country for 1976.”

Ford is to be an empty figurehead, as *New York Times* columnist William Shannon made clear in a column appearing the day after the Article II vote. Harking back to the last time the ruling class needed a war government, Shannon suggests a resurrection of Franklin Roosevelt’s “super cabinet,” minus Roosevelt. It would be “made up of perhaps five to eight persons.” These would be individuals of the “highest public standing, with great but varied experience and outlook, to be nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate....It would help provide the new President with the unbiased judgement, experienced counsel, and moral support he will badly need.”

With this naked acknowledgement that constitutional democracy is no longer functional, Rockefeller has placed his enabling legislation for his new government on the floor of the House. He has little to fear from terrified Richard Nixon who consistently has refused to expose the Rockefeller-CIA set-up. Only a broad response from everyone who understands the historical import of the impeachment and the potential for driving the working class into active motion behind the Labor Committees, can head off Rockefeller’s plans.