I would first like to commend the staff for their excellent report on the conduct of prior inpeachments. I think this sets forth a good guideline for the participation of the President's counsel during our investigation. The procedural question is properly kept open and will receive appropriate attention further down the pike when we have a more concrete idea of the overall procedures.

However, some questions do come to mind in regard to the staff reports. At the same time the staff report was issued, another report, prepared by the minority, was given to the Committee. Although I certainly do not question the right of the minority to ~~prepare this report~~ express its views. I am confused because I was led to believe that Mr. Doar and Mr. Jenner were in agreement on this report. If this is the case, who prepared the minority report? Does it speak for all of the minority members and staff, or just some of them? All of the patience exhibited by those persons working on the staff reports. seems to be wasted if a faction of the staff turns the issuing of every report into a partisan battle.

I also have some questions on the issue of the President's taxes. I've just returned from Iowa and that's what's on a lot of people's minds. They kept asking me what the Committee is doing in this area. That's the fundamental question. Have we requested, and if so, have we received, the IRS report, which is really what the President has agreed to abide by? I think this is important because it is my understanding that Mr. Nixon waived an attorney-client privilege for the IRS investigation which he reportedly will not waive for this Committee's inquiry? I would hope that we can acquire the IRS report, transcripts of its interviews and other documents relevant to our investigation. I also hope we've requested the materials gathered by the Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation--the back up evidence that went into their report.

I think we have to look at the fraud question. The fact that the President and his tax attorneys are high-tailing it away from any responsibility for the errors in his tax returns certainly infers that more than simple negligence was involved. This impression is all the more reason that our Committee must get to the root of this matter.