

History of “high Crimes and Misdemeanors”

President Andrew Johnson

1. Fired Secretary of War Edwin Stanton in violation of Tenure of Office Act.
2. Insulted Congress “with a loud voice”.

Result: Impeached in 1868. Acquitted by Senate.

President Richard Nixon

1. Obstructed investigations into Watergate scandal.
2. Spied on several Americans using wiretaps and IRS records.
3. Used “executive privilege” to refuse Congressional subpoenas.

Result: Impeachment initiated in 1974 leading to resignation. Led to enactment of FISA law to prevent future warrant-less wiretaps.

President William Clinton

1. Perjury, influencing a witness and impeding investigations related to a sexual affair.
2. Refusing written requests for documents and testimony from Congress.

Result: Impeached in 1998. Acquitted by Senate.

President George W Bush and Vice President Richard Cheney

1. Deliberately misled Congress into a war with Iraq leading to over 4000 American deaths and tens of thousands wounded, over half a million Iraqi dead, trillions of dollars wasted, US economy severely damaged, and international reputation in tatters.
2. Admitted to spying on thousands, perhaps millions of Americans without warrants in violation of FISA law, Federal Telecommunications Act, and 4th Amendment.
3. Held thousands of people prisoner without charges and without the fundamental right to the writ of habeas corpus. Kidnapped and rendered many to secret overseas prisons.
4. Authorized and condoned the torture of thousands of prisoners, leading in many documented cases to death, in violation of Geneva Convention and Federal Anti-Torture Law.
5. Revealed the identity of CIA agent Valerie (Plame) Wilson and impeded related investigations.
6. Used “executive privilege” to refuse to comply with over a dozen Congressional subpoenas related to improper firing of Federal attorneys, illegally pressuring EPA, torture, election violations, et-cetera.

Insufficient space to print all charges. Please refer to HRes 1258, which contains 35 Articles of Impeachment.

Result: Impeachment taken “off the table” by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi allowing expanded powers of the Executive to go unchallenged and, therefore, available for use by future Presidents.