

After Katrina, We Must Impeach Bush, Cheney, Chertoff

By Francis A. Boyle

09/16/05 "ICH" -- -- The longer we delay the necessary and principled impeachment process against Bush Jr. and his neo-conservative apparatchiks, the greater will be the disaster for all the peoples of the world and even here in the United States. Witness the racist and class-based criminal mistreatment inflicted by the Bush Jr. administration upon the victims of Hurricane Katrina. President Bush Jr., Vice President Cheney, and Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff must all be impeached immediately for denying Equal Protection of the Laws to the Katrina Victims because they are African Americans and because they are Poor in violation of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution. Their criminal negligence and resulting mass homicides constitute "other high Crimes and Misdemeanors" within the meaning of Article II, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution quoted above.

There is a recent precedent for introducing an Article of Impeachment against an incumbent American President for such Equal Protection violations amounting to massive discrimination on the grounds of Race and Class threatening the lives of American citizens that this author personally advised upon. On 14 January 1991, pursuant to the terms of the 1973 War Powers Resolution, the United States Congress authorized President Bush Sr. to use military force against Iraq in order to expel Iraq from Kuwait in accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 678 of 29 November 1990. In direct reaction thereto, Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez of Texas, former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, and I agreed to set up a National Campaign to Impeach President Bush Sr. if he went to war against Iraq, initially for the purpose of deterring him from doing so. It was agreed that I would write the Bill of Particulars against President Bush Sr. to serve as the basis for drafting the Articles of Impeachment comprising the Gonzalez Bill of Impeachment. We launched the Bush Sr. Impeachment Campaign on 15 January

1991.

Nevertheless the war started, and the very next day Congressman Gonzalez appeared on the floor of the House of Representatives to introduce his Bill of Impeachment against President Bush Sr. It was my great honor and privilege to serve as Counsel to Congressman Gonzalez on the subsequent course of this impeachment effort that he so courageously and tenaciously investigated and pursued in his capacity as Chairman of the House Banking Committee, a position he held until the Democrats lost control of the House of Representatives in the 1994 congressional elections. In response, President Bush Sr. even unleashed the C.I.A. on this beloved congressman known affectionately to his friends as "Henry B."

I will not review here either the contents or the bases for the 1991 Gonzalez Impeachment Resolution against President Bush Sr. But for the purpose of this Equal Protection impeachment argument with respect to the Katrina victims on grounds of Class and Race, its most salient feature was Article I:

Article I

In the conduct of the office of President of the United States, George Herbert Walker Bush, 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 violated the equal protection clause of the Constitution. U.S. soldiers in the Middle East are overwhelmingly poor white, black, and Mexican-American, and their military service is based on the coercion of a system that has denied viable economic opportunities to these classes of citizens. Under the Constitution, all classes of citizens are guaranteed equal protection, and calling on the poor and minorities to fight a war for oil to preserve the lifestyles of the wealthy is a denial of the rights of these soldiers. In all of this George Herbert Walker Bush 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 George Herbert Walker Bush, by such conduct, warrants impeachment and trial, and removal from office.

As Congressman Gonzalez so eloquently, presciently and prophetically stated when he introduced his Bill of Impeachment against President Bush Sr. onto the Floor of the U.S. House of Representatives on 16 January 1991:

.... My resolution has five articles of impeachment. First, the President has violated the equal protection clause of the Constitution. Our soldiers in the Middle East are overwhelmingly poor white, black, and Mexican-American or Hispanic-American. They may be volunteers technically, but their voluntarism is based on the coercion of a system that has denied viable opportunities to these classes of our citizens. Under the Constitution, all classes of citizens are guaranteed equal protection, and calling on the poor and the minorities to fight a war for oil to preserve the lifestyles of the wealthy is a denial of the rights of these soldiers.

Let me add that since 1981 we have suffered the Reagan-Bush and now the Bush war against the poor, and to add insult to injury, we now are asking the poor to fight while here, as a result of this fight, even the meager programs that the Congress had seen fit to preserve as a national policy will suffer because the money for those programs will be diverted to the cause of this unnecessary war....

Of course the same constitutional arguments apply today to justify the impeachment of President Bush Jr. for his illegal and criminal war against Iraq in order to steal oil that is being waged by poor Whites, Blacks, and Latinos to support the luxurious lifestyles of the White Racist Power Elite who effectively govern this country and criminally abandoned the Black and Poor Katrina victims to their grisly and cruel fate.

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