

A Resignation from the Presidency of the United States

By

Charles R. Coombs

My fellow Americans, tonight I come before you with a heavy heart to take an action which up to now I have resisted with every fiber of my being. I thought that by apologizing for my admitted mistakes, by showing the genuine remorse I feel so acutely every waking minute, and by redoubling my efforts to provide you the American People with the leadership you elected me to provide, this sad situation might have been averted.

Earlier today, however, I was approached by congressional members of my own party and informed that if I did not resign forthwith, I would be impeached. I was told that partisan elements in the Senate, after the calamitous election of 1998, had the votes to convict. I was warned that even my innocence would be no defense, and that the record I have compiled on your behalf, a record that includes saving Social Security, ensuring the constitutional right of every woman in America to privacy in the use of her own body, and protecting our young people from the ills of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs, would not weigh in my favor.

Worse, it has become obvious that government is paralyzed in America. Strutting dictators from Iraq to Ghana now flout the international conventions it once fell to me and to the United States to enforce. Discrimination and prejudice are reasserting themselves in an atmosphere of distraction brought on by your government's preoccupation with this partisan disaster. Crime, which has been in decline for the past years of my administration, is growing once again. Even the economy, just last year the best our people have enjoyed in this entire century, has succumbed to the directionless uncertainty which has accompanied this partisan catastrophe. More children live in poverty. Fewer families are working. Those who are take home less in their paychecks or augment their incomes with part-time work, even as the more fortunate members of our society pocket an ever greater share of the national wealth.

For these and other reasons too numerous and detailed to mention here, I now realize that I must rise above partisan bickering and do what must be done to make our broken nation work again. I must look beyond the bitter injustice visited on me and my family by accusations relating solely to my personal life. I must return to this Presidency, tarnished and besmirched by baseless charges and false allegations, the dignity and respect it once enjoyed. And I must do this, whatever the cost to me in pain or possessions, subjecting my will wholly to the will of you the American People.

Accordingly, my fellow Americans, I have today invoked the emergency powers granted me by the Emergency Act of March 9, 1933 and the subsequent Presidential Executive Orders implementing that act to take this country back on your behalf.

To that end, I have ordered a full stand-down of all military forces of the United States until further notice. I have federalized the National Guards of the several states and placed them under control of the Federal Emergency Management Authority. The guardspersons will work with federal and local law enforcement to ensure civil order until such time as we can reassert control over normal government functions. If necessary, I am prepared to suspend the writ of habeas corpus and to declare martial law, but I want you to understand, my fellow Americans, that I have done neither at this time.

To control the partisanship which has so severely damaged our beloved country in the past, I have ordered elements of the Maryland Guard to secure the Pentagon, the Capitol, and the Supreme Court building, placing these hallowed institutions temporarily under FEMA control until the present emergency can be resolved.

Finally, I want to make it absolutely clear that I have no intention of deserting you the American People in this time of trouble, however happy it would make me to return to the bosoms of loved ones back home. I will never resign. If necessary, if the current emergency continues unabated, I am prepared to remain in office after my normal term on an emergency basis, should you decide that's necessary.

Let us all now roll up our sleeves and work harder than we ever have in our lives before to heal our wounded nation, so that government of the people, by the people, and for the people may be restored at the earliest possible date.

Good night, and God bless the United States of America.