

# CENTER *for* JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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2 pages

February 9, 1999

Katrina vanden Heuvel, Managing Editor  
THE NATION

RE: MAJOR INVESTIGATIVE NEWS STORIES

Dear Ms. vanden Heuvel:

First, I wish to acknowledge and thank you for your unexpectedly prompt and kind E-mail.

I realize that when you sent your E-mail, you had probably only quickly examined the transmitted materials. However, I am troubled that you are uncertain "if, and how" The Nation might pursue the "materials" -- and that you believe that "in light of earlier coverage", the most The Nation can do is "an item" in its "In Fact" section, based on the "information" I provided.

It would be most incongruous if The Nation were not greatly interested in exposing the *official* misconduct and hypocrisy of the House Judiciary Committee and Chief Justice Rehnquist on matters *directly relevant* to the President's impeachment -- in view of Mr. Shapiro's November 30, 1998 editorial, "*We, the Jury*", itemizing hypocrisy and transgressions by the Congressional jury, mostly *unrelated* to the impeachment case against the President. That editorial remains on The Nation's current homepage as being "Of Interest".

As to your belief that there has been "earlier coverage" -- and that this would somehow preclude The Nation from doing more than "an item" in its "In Fact" section -- you are in error. The ONLY "earlier coverage" was a single-sentence in The Village Voice about the Chief Justice, which was so garbled and distorted as to require me to write a Letter to the Editor, published in expurgated form. These were enclosed with the transmitted materials.

February 9, 1999

Obviously, "an item" in The Nation's "In Fact" section would be an improvement over what has not only been media non-coverage, but media suppression. However, I find it hard to believe that you could read CJA's two press releases and consider such sharply-abbreviated format adequate for the stories they present<sup>1</sup>.

The House Judiciary Committee's handling of the hundreds of citizen-filed judicial impeachment complaints it receives and CJA's impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Rehnquist are MAJOR news stories, requiring precisely the kind of investigative journalism The Nation promotes. In that regard, The Nation Institute, on whose board you are a listed trustee, not only has an "Investigative Unit", but a "Supreme Court Watch" -- the latter of which was formerly directed by Mr. Shapiro.

IF, as it appears, CJA's press releases are not, in and of themselves, sufficient for you to make referrals to the "Investigative Unit" and "Supreme Court Watch" for follow-up, I will speedily provide you with the substantiating documentation identified by the releases -- and offered to you in my coverletter. Indeed, I will be going to the City tomorrow evening and could hand-deliver the documentation at that time. Please advise as to whether this would be helpful.

Again, thank you for your courtesy and consideration.

Yours for a quality judiciary,



ELENA RUTH SASSOWER, Coordinator  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

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<sup>1</sup> I telephoned to Richard Lingeman at about 10:00 a.m. today, introducing myself and offering whatever assistance might be useful in his consideration of our two press releases as an "In Fact" "item". At the time we spoke, Mr. Lingeman had not yet received the releases from you.