

E-mail # 1

Subj: Henry Hyde & the House Judiciary Committee's Other Impeachment Duties  
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From: Judgewatch  
To: salon@salonmagazine.com

Inasmuch as Salon "took the lead" in breaking the story about Henry Hyde's adulterous affair from 30 years ago – for which it has been subjected to a "firestorm" of criticism" – our national, non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization, the Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) would like to offer Salon the opportunity to take the lead on another story about Henry Hyde – as to which there can be NO such criticism. This is because the story not only concerns Henry Hyde's on-the-job performance as chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, but his knowledge of and complicity in the House Judiciary Committee's jettisoning of its constitutional duty to investigate complaints of impeachable conduct by federal judges, when such complaints are filed by citizens or directed to it by members of Congress. These complaints are not only not investigated by the Committee, they are not even acknowledged. Truth to say, they fall into a "black hole" – with the House Judiciary Committee not even recording the numbers of such complaints it receives, Congress in its "Summary of Activities" – as was the Committee's practice prior to Mr. Hyde's Chairmanship – and the Committee denying <sup>public</sup> access to those impeachment complaints, notwithstanding they are supposed to be accessible upon request.

We have an extraordinary compendium of documentation, reflecting our five-year correspondence with the House Judiciary Committee – including with Mr. Hyde – substantiating a written statement we submitted to the House Judiciary Committee last June for inclusion in the record of its June 11, 1998 "oversight hearing of the operation and administration of the federal judiciary". The statement itself is posted on our website: [www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org) – as is our published article, referred to by the statement, "*Without Merit: The Empty Promise of Judicial Discipline*", *The Long Term View* (Massachusetts School of Law), Vol. 4, No. 1 (summer 1997), which further particularizes the situation.

We note from your editorial, "Why We Ran the Henry Hyde Story" that Salon's examination of that story began with David Talbot "receiv[ing] a phone call" from Mr. Sommer. We would appreciate being able to speak to Mr. Talbot so as to provide him with a quick overview of this extremely pertinent story – as well as a description of the kind of OFFICIAL misconduct alleged by the judicial impeachment complaints which have "lain fallow" at the House Judiciary Committee. Yes, such misconduct includes perjury, fraud, obstruction of justice, etc. by federal judges in performance of their OFFICIAL DUTIES.

[P.S. In case you are unaware, the three impeachments of federal judges in the 1980's (the first in 50 years) were the result of criminal proceedings having been initiated against the judges – two of whom were convicted. As to Judge Hastings – now a member of the House of Representatives – his impeachment followed referral to Congress by the federal judiciary after his *acquittal*.]

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