

The John Locke Society

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This inaugural debate caucus of the John Locke Society ideally would have set the standard for the Society's debate caucuses to come. Alas, rather than debate an issue of momentous policy, or a question of great historical significance, or a matter of noble character, present events force the Society to first debate an especially grim choice over which is the lesser of two evils.

In the history of the Republic, no president has posed a greater threat to the *institution* of the presidency than William Jefferson Clinton. His high crimes and misdemeanors threaten to permanently corrupt the executive branch and the judicial process, and to undermine the fundamental legal principles upon which this great country was founded. His actions have led to the only impeachment of an elected president the Republic has ever experienced, thereby potentially unbalancing the separation of powers set forth in the Constitution. It cannot be gainsaid that every true Conservative must in principle support the conviction and removal of Bill Clinton from the Oval Office. Yet the Chairman is chilled by the immediate consequences of doing so. Waiting in the wings to take Bill Clinton's place is a man who is every bit the socialist Mr. Clinton is and an even more radical leftist on issues such as the environment, the U.N., and income redistribution. An Al Gore presidency would strengthen his chances to capture (and corrupt even more) the White House in 2000 by enabling him to use the power of incumbency in his presidential bid. Furthermore, as an impeached second term president, Bill Clinton is not only a lame duck but a maimed one, with a greatly reduced ability to push through new confiscatory legislation or oppose the Republicans' congressional agenda.

As chilling as these concerns are, however, the Chairman is loathe to contemplate the horrific thought of an impeached Bill Clinton not being removed from office. To fail to convict and remove the man who has made a mockery of the office held by such noble men of honor as George Washington and Ronald Reagan is utterly beyond the pale. Moreover, to impeach the president without his subsequent conviction and removal is to vitiate one of the primary Constitutional safeguards of our liberties, and violates the Senate's constitutional duty to convict and remove executive officers who have committed high crimes and misdemeanors. Additionally, to impeach but not remove Bill Clinton arguably makes him even stronger, for in the eyes of many it will amount to an acquittal and the *de facto* finding that the president *is* above the law. Finally, the ascension of Al Gore to the presidency guarantees the 2000 Democrat nomination for what is in reality their weakest candidate, and will expose Mr. Gore for the tree-hugging, tax-loving, profligate-spending, "the sky is falling down" Chicken Little that he is.

The prospect of being gored on the horns of this dilemma compels the Chairman to solicit the views of Members and guests of the John Locke Society, who are invited to the Society's inaugural *Ronald Wilson Reagan Debate Caucus* to debate

***Resolved: This House Prefers an Impeached But Not
Convicted President Clinton to an Al Gore Presidency.***

The Society will assemble **Thursday, January 28th** in the Weatherford Room of the Royal Oaks Country Club (7915 Greenville Avenue, Dallas). The Provostery will open at **6:00 p.m.** (finger sandwiches and drinks are available). The Chairman will gavel the Caucus to order at precisely **7:00 p.m.** Gentlemen are reminded to adorn proper neckwear; ladies should adhere to a similar sartorial standard. Literary presentations are encouraged. Questions can be directed to the Chairman at 214-871-3059.