

Subj: letter to editor
Date: 99-01-20 09:53:30 EST
From: Vista1999
To: editor@villagevoice.com

ATT: Rebecca Segal
& Lou

Enclosed, as requested, is the stream-lined letter. I got it down to about 200 words. I honestly don't believe it can be shorter. Please advise if you make any changes. I will be in today until 3:00 in the afternoon – and then not reachable until about 7:00. Thank you.

*But
Ridgeway never started*

REHNQUIST UNFIT TO PRESIDE

James Ridgeway's *Mondo Washington* (1/19/99) stated that Chief Justice Rehnquist could be the "big surprise" in the President's Senate impeachment trial. ~~But~~ it did not identify the surprise, even while misrepresenting that Rehnquist has been "attacked on the left" because he "ignored evidence" of impeachable conduct by federal judges under his supervision.

To our knowledge, no one "on the left" has made such attack. Rather, the charge comes from the completely non-partisan Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. The Center filed an impeachment complaint with the House Judiciary Committee last November, asserting that the Chief Justice had mandatory supervisory and ethical duties – which he jettisoned to cover-up for corrupt judges with whom he has personal and professional relationships. By law, the Chief Justice was required to have disclosed those relationships or recuse himself.

In a seeming non-sequitur, Mr. Ridgeway goes on to cite a 1972 case in which Rehnquist failed to recuse himself, but "clearly should have". Omitted is that this motivated Congress to pass the disclosure/recusal law – the very law Rehnquist subverted to protect his judicial "buddies".

This then is the explosive surprise: an impeachment complaint against the Chief Justice that could blow up the Senate trial – because the greater obstructer of justice and law breaker is Rehnquist.

ELENA RUTH SASSOWER, Coordinator
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