

Attorney General Is Impeachable

Your July 24 editorial "Bad Faith at Justice" suggests that there is some question as to the constitutionality of impeaching an attorney general. No doubt exists. The Constitution (Article 2, Section 4) declares that "The President, Vice President, and all civil Officers of the United States shall be removed from office on Impeachment..." The Attorney General is a civil officer.

During the course of American history, only one cabinet member has been impeached. That was William Belknap, secretary of war to President Grant. Belknap was acquitted by the Senate.

It is interesting to recall the words of Founding Father James Madison, in a speech during the First Congress. Madison said: "It is very possible that an officer who may not incur the displeasure of the President may be guilty of actions that ought to forfeit his place. The power of this House may reach him by means of an impeachment, and he may be removed even against the will of the President."

STEVE CHARNOVITZ

New Haven, Conn.