

# Watergate

## Role in History

### **Donnald K. Anderson, Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives**

Reflections on the significance role of the House Judiciary Committee during the Watergate Era.

*Interview recorded May 31, 2006.*

What impressed me was that the Members that were involved directly as Members of the Judiciary Committee took their role with the *gravitas* that it deserved—the idea of removing the President of the United States—that it clearly had to be on the most sound constitutional and historical footing, that it couldn't give the appearance of being politically motivated or any kind of an expedient. That's what impressed me most about the debates that I followed when I had time in the Judiciary Committee and also about the discussions that I heard on the floor and in the cloakroom from the Members of the Judiciary Committee about their role to make sure that it was well done. They were concerned about their own place in history. After all, there hadn't been a serious attempt to impeach the President of the United States since Andrew Johnson. And they knew that this, if nothing else in their careers, would make them immortal, and it was important to be remembered for having done it with a great deal of thoughtfulness and introspection and adherence to constitutional precedent.