

# The Conway Daily Sun

## **Weld: Trump's conduct screams removal**

Lloyd Jones

January 2, 2020

Having begun his legal career working on the impeachment investigation of President Richard Nixon, Republican presidential candidate William Weld believes his chief opponent, President Donald Trump, has violated his oath of office and should be impeached by the Senate.

In the Nixon impeachment inquiry in 1974, Weld worked as a junior counsel on the House Judiciary Committee Impeachment Inquiry staff on research into whether the impoundment of appropriated funds was an impeachable offense.

He went on to serve for seven years in the Department of Justice as well as two terms (1991-97) as governor in Massachusetts, where he was re-elected by the largest margin in state history.

Weld said Trump's transgressions made Nixon's look small in comparison.

"I don't think (the work of the House on Trump's impeachment) was rushed or incomplete," Weld, 74, said during an editorial board at the Sun on Thursday. "These are the sins of the deepest stains that I can imagine."

Weld said he would have probably added an impeachment article based on the 10 examples of obstruction listed in Volume 2 in the Mueller Report.

"I was one of 1,000 former federal prosecutors who signed a letter saying this is the strongest evidence of obstruction that we've ever seen," he said. "I prosecuted a lot of those cases, both when I was U.S. attorney in Boston and when I was head of the criminal division, Washington superintendent of all the U.S. attorneys, so I'm familiar with the evidence that's available and obstruction cases. And it never, in my experience, seven years, rose to the level of ordering people to file fictitious documents or commit perjury, which Trump did with four high-ranking people, including the director of national intelligence.

"And they all said 'No, we won't.' And Trump said why? And they said because that's not accurate. That's false. It's a lie, so that would be perjury or creating fictitious documents. And that would be essentially perjury as well. And the president said, 'What's your point?'"

Weld said Trump is taking the position that under Article II of the Constitution, Congress has no authority to investigate him, "which kind of dismantles the entire scheme of the Constitution. That's why this president's conduct and his position scream removal, they don't scream this guy's got to go to jail. I mean, he might mount a defense of invincible ignorance and get away with it in a judicial proceeding. But they do scream removal."

Weld has made 113 visits to the Granite State, according to NECN's 2020 New Hampshire Candidate Tracker.

He also made a campaign stop at the Gibson Center for Senior Services on Thursday in North Conway, where he spoke to a good-sized crowd, prior to coming to the Sun.

Weld, who said his proudest moment in public service is what he "is doing right now," said two of his campaign priorities are to trim the deficit and to protect the climate.

He also is a staunch believer in term limits.

Weld is asking Independents and Democrats to cast their votes for him in the primary "instead of the other guy," something that seems to be resonating with undecided Granite Staters.

"We took out newspaper ads actually saying you've got to re-register by Oct. 25, or you can't vote in the Republican primary. But you should, because it's a way to cast an early vote against Trump," he said. "I got some traction with that out there, and the more liberal the Democrat, the greater the traction."

Weld said his favorite Amendment is the 10th — "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

Weld is worried about our nation's future.

"There's just a lot of things I would like to do in Washington, D.C., that aren't being done because Mr. Trump doesn't have any knowledge base to start from," he said.

"I don't think anyone is planning ahead for the 20 percent of all the jobs that now exist in the United States being gone in 10 years," he said, because of technological advancements. As one example, he said long-haul truckers will be replaced by driverless trucks.

"That's the bad news. And the good news is that AI is actually going to create a vast amount of wealth in the United States because of making the economy more efficient. And they are going to be new jobs, in the new, more technically-based economy, and they're going to be higher-paying jobs than the ones that are lost."

Although he doesn't know businessman Andrew Yang, who is seeking the Democratic party nomination, Weld likes him a lot and would welcome him in his cabinet if elected president.

Asked by Sun Publisher Mark Guerrigue which of the Democratic candidates he likes, Weld said Yang, Vice President Joe Biden and former South Bend, Ind., Mayor Peter Buttigieg.

"I'm worried, like everyone else I know, that (Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth) Warren, who I like personally, and (Vermont Sen. Bernie) Sanders, whom I admire personally, not the politics, in either case, will get the nomination and lose to Trump."

"I think I could beat either one of those Democrats by standing up and saying, 'Yeah, I'm a Republican. You may not have heard of me, but I'm a fiscal conservative, and actually, I was head of the Privatization Council and I was ranked by the Cato Institute in The Wall Street Journal as the most fiscally conservative governor in the United States.'"

Weld was asked by reporter Daymond Steer about UFOs.

“I do think there’s extraterrestrial life out there and it would be too much of a coincidence if the only quote life in the universe of the universe is was that on planet Earth,” he said.

“So I do think life is out there. Do I think it’s intelligent life? Yeah, I think it’s probably more intelligent than us homo sapiens,” he said. “So does that admit the possibility of space exploration by them? It does. I mean, it’s a little too convenient to have it be a flying saucer thing. I think it might take some other form that we couldn’t see so readily, but I would never say never.”

Calling himself “an explore outer space guy from the get-go,” Weld said he thinks the Space Force is one of the best things that Trump has done. “I love his increasing the NASA budget. I loved it when the Russians and U.S. had these joint space stations, so instead of glaring at each other, we’d be both looking in the same direction.”

Asked what three people throughout history he’d like to have dinner with, Weld was quick to say Julius Caesar and Brutus, a Roman senator who took a leading role in the assassination of Caesar, and then added Lao-Tze, a Chinese philosopher credited with founding the philosophical system of Taoism.

“I played Brutus in my high school (theater) production,” he said with a smile.

Also seeking the party nomination are former Illinois Rep. Joe Walsh and California businessman Roque De La Fuente.