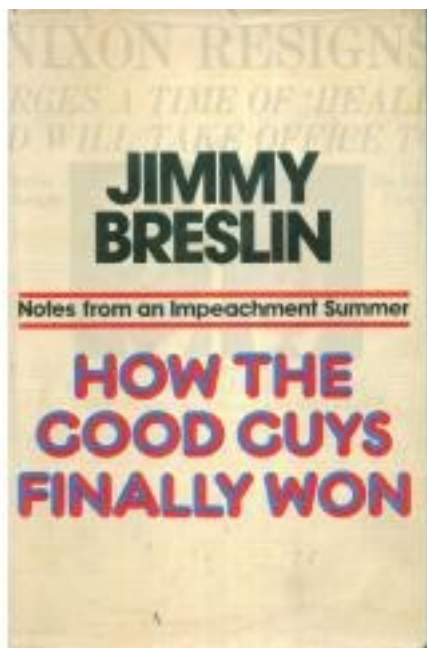


# How the Good Guys Finally Won



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"... impeachment is going to hit this Congress " So spoke Democratic Majority Leader Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill in January of 1973. He was addressing Speaker of the House Carl Albert.

O'Neill, an enormous figure of a man who comes from the wrong section of Cambridge, Massachusetts, wasn't indulging in partisan prophecy; he was speaking, rather, from years of hard political experience, about a nasty business which he felt to be inevitable.

In the spring of 1974 Jimmy Breslin went to Washington to observe at first hand the inching along of the cumbersome process. Breslin did not, however, spend his time in court and committee rooms. He preferred to work the offices on and near Capitol Hill, to talk informally with the congressmen, the lawyers--and their aides--who were laboriously putting together the mountain of paper that was to bury Richard Nixon: he even visited Allenwood Prison in the "businesslike" hills of Pennsylvania.

Those names and faces which became so familiar to us in a two-dimensional way last summer are now clad in flesh and sweat. As are dozens of men and women who never saw a television camera but who were equally dedicated to keeping the resolution of a dirty affair clean.

Woven in among his often telling,  
sometimes devastating stories of the great  
and near-great is Breslin s theory about  
the illusion of power, that strange admix-  
ture of mirrors and blue smoke: if the

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