

Speech Reaction Cheers Nixon

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Public reaction to President Nixon's State of the Union address has cheered the President and his staff and convinced them that, despite Democratic criticisms, he made progress with the voters.

Press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler reported that the telephone and telegraph response to the address was "substantial" and "favorable," with responses running about

5 to 1 in support of the President.

However, Ziegler would provide no information on the number of telegrams received or make a sample of them available.

The House Judiciary Committee, on the other hand, reportedly received telegrams in opposition to the President and calling for his impeachment on a ratio of nearly 6 to 1.

Other White House aides said they believed the public reaction supported Mr. Nixon's contention that "one year of Watergate is enough" and that voters wanted to get on to other business.

The President's appearance and delivery were applauded, said one aide, and helped dispel concern about his health.

Ziegler repeated a promise of a presidential news conference soon, perhaps within two weeks. The most recent one was Oct. 26.

On Capitol Hill, Democratic criticism mounted, however, with House Judiciary Committee members especially expressing dissatisfaction regarding limitations the President placed on his promise of cooperation with the committee in its impeachment investigation.

Ziegler would not be specific when questioned about the meaning of the President's reservations, arguing that since the White House had received no request from the Judiciary Committee he could not define the extent of cooperation.

"When we have something specific before us we will study it and do so in the framework of what the President said last night," the press secretary said.

After promising to cooperate with the committee in its inquiry, Mr. Nixon said there was "only one limitation:"

that he would do nothing that "weakens" the office of the President or "impairs" the ability of future Presidents to carry out their responsibilities.

In other actions, the President confirmed reports that he will nominate Laurence H. Silberman, formerly solicitor and under secretary in the Labor Department, to be deputy attorney general, succeeding William D. Ruckelshaus.

Ruckelshaus resigned in October along with Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson over the firing of Archibald Cox as special prosecutor in the Watergate case.

Since leaving the Labor Department a year ago, Silberman has been a partner in the Washington law firm of Steptoe & Johnson.

Silberman, 38, was said to have been in line to be Secretary of Labor in late 1972 but was blocked by former White

House aide Charles W. Colson. Silberman reportedly resisted Colson's efforts to obtain improper Labor Department intervention in certain labor cases.

Mr. Nixon also accepted with "deep regret" the resignations of Carroll G. Brunthaver as assistant secretary of agriculture and Lee W. Huhner as special assistant to the President.

Brunthaver, who played an important role in recent U.S. wheat and grain sales abroad, is returning to private life and is said to be planning studies on international grain production and needs.

Huebner has been a member of the Nixon speech writing staff since 1968. He said he had planned to leave the White House for some time and was not resigning because of any dissatisfaction. He is to join Whitney Communications Corp. in New York.