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w Post

A Poll on Impeachment

By John Carmody

WETA-FM (90.9), the city's most listened-to public radio outlet, yesterday polled its constituency on the question of whether impeachment proceedings should be started against President Nixon.

National Public Radio snapped up the idea and contacted NRP AM and FM outlets in about eight areas, including Ames, Iowa, Maryville, Mo., Tampa, Fla., Morehead, Minn., and Seattle, Wash. Each station was asked to conduct a similar poll or report on other community reactions.

WETA, with only three telephone lines available, began asking for opinions at the end of each record played when the station went on the air at 6 a.m. yesterday, and planned to continue polling until sign-off at 1 a.m. today.

By late afternoon, according to WETA radio director Fred Flaxman, 1,135 calls had been logged, with results running very heavily against Mr. Nixon: 1,061 callers opted for impeachment or resignation, with only 74 opposing such action.

The Morehead outlet, meanwhile, reported that a poll being conducted by a commercial radio station there had received 35 calls against the President and only 2 supporting him. Public opinion in that community had backed Mr. Nixon at the time of his Cambodia incursion by a ratio of about 10 to 1. The town is the home of Concordia, a Lutheran college.

A person-to-person poll conducted on the Maryville campus of Northwest Missouri State University showed that about half of the 50 students polled felt that Mr. Nixon should sur-

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render the tapes. On the question of impeachment, 10 students said they favored it and 40 said they had no opinion.

The National Public Affairs Center for Television announced late yesterday that it will try to keep the PBS network's 239 outlets up to date on the Washington crisis this week with special 10 o'clock nightly telecasts.

NPACT president Jim Karyn said each day's events will determine just what programs' content and length will be, from half-hour straight newscasts to extended coverage of the latest events and discussions.

NPACT cicked off the PBS specials last night at 9:30 with the appearance of White House aide Patrick Buchanan and others. Peter Kaye handled the interviews.

In case you didn't think pro football fever was running high these days, consider the latest Arbitron TV ratings (for the week of Sept. 26-Oct. 2).

For the second straight week, the Sunday afternoon CBS game on Channel 9 featuring the Redskins (against Philadelphia, yet), led the entire Top 25 list of programs.

The Monday night game on Channel 7, ABC's NFL entry, (Atlanta vs. Detroit, of all people) finished fifth.

A report on "Presidential Television," to be issued this week by the Twentieth Century Fund, insists that the unique access of the White House to TV "has enormously and dangerously increased the advantage" over opposition in influencing public opinion.

The report, written by Newton N. Minow, John Bartlow Martin and Lee M. Mitchell (with a foreword by the Ford Foundation's Fred W. Friendly) charges that an imbalance has set in that distorts the nation's political system.

The authors suggest that Congress should permit TV cameras on the floors of the House and Senate for "especially scheduled prime-time evening sessions" and that the Supreme Court—without forcing the justices into the TV spotlight—should improve coverage of the Court's decisions.

It also urges that the national committee of an opposition party be given access to radio and TV to respond to any presidential addresses made during the 10 months preceding a presidential election and 90 days before an off-year congressional vote.