

Schweiker Calls For Resignation

F. Post

5-11-74

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican Sen. Richard Schweiker of Pennsylvania called for President Nixon's resignation Friday because of what he called "the now obvious moral corrosion destroying and debasing the presidency."

Schweiker was the fourth GOP senator to urge Nixon to resign. Another, Sen. Milton Young, R-N.D., said Nixon should consider stepping out of office while impeachment proceedings are under way.

The President met for an hour with Vice President Gerald R. Ford, who said Thursday that Watergate has caused "an erosion of confidence in our federal government which has reached crisis proportions."

After Friday's meeting, Ford went to Buffalo, N.Y., where he told a news conference that he and Nixon discussed foreign policy matters, some problems before the Congress and the impeachment proceedings in the House.

The White House declined to give details of the meeting. Deputy Press Secretary Gerald L. Warren said, "It's quite possible they discussed the mood of the country." But he said there was no talk of a possible Nixon resignation.

Schweiker declared that the President's Watergate transcripts "reveal a total disregard for the moral and ethical values upon which this nation was built."

Sen. Charles Percy, R-Ill., meanwhile, said the transcripts "really raise more questions than they answer," adding he fails to see how either the courts or Congress "can be satisfied that this is the whole story and that no further evidence need to be produced."

Though both Schweiker and Percy are GOP moderates who have often differed with Nixon, their statements and one by Sen. Marlow Cook, R-Ky., that Nixon "must realistically contemplate" resignation, represented an increasing willingness for Republicans to speak out publicly against the President.

In a statement released by his Washington office, Young said "Recent disclosures in the transcripts of White House conversations related to Watergate, together with severe criticism from top Republican leaders and others have made it very difficult for the President to continue in office."

Young said it remains to be seen whether Nixon has committed any impeachable offenses. He said if Nixon should step out of office during the impeachment proceedings, he could resume the office if found innocent.

—The Associated Press learned of secret Senate testimony that top dairy cooperative leaders tried to raise a quick \$300,000 for President Nixon's campaign within hours of a White House meeting on milk price supports in March 1971.

—Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy was found guilty on two counts of contempt of Congress for his refusal to be sworn in and testify to an House intelligence subcommittee last July. District Judge John H. Pratt suspended a six-month sentence, noting Liddy already is serving another contempt sentence and still faces prison time for his conviction on burglary, conspiracy and wiretapping charges.