

Nationwide demand for impeachment

Examiner News Services

WASHINGTON — Despite President Nixon's decision to give up the Watergate tapes, members of Congress say a tremendous and one-sided bombardment of mail from constituents demanding impeachment is continuing, while only the most minuscule support for the President is showing up.

The House Judiciary Committee, which has commenced an impeachment investigation, reported receiving 10,121 letters and telegrams calling for impeachment and only 167 opposing such action.

A committee aide said most of the letters arriving yesterday were written after Nixon agreed on Tuesday to hand over the tapes to Judge John J. Sirica.

"It doesn't seem to have made any difference," the aide said. "It hasn't slowed things down much at all."

Sen. Thomas J. McIntyre (D-N.H.) has received in the last week 460 letters favoring Nixon's impeachment and only five letters supporting the President.

"Most of the letters are very brief," said McIntyre aide Jeff Kelly. "Some mention abuse of executive privilege, some complain about the decline of the rule of law."

One of Nixon's most stalwart Senate backers, Roman L. Hruska (R-Neb.) counted 141 pro-impeachment letters

to 31 supporting the President.

"Some are cryptic, most are very brief," said Hruska's administrative assistant, David Dishendorf. "A lot said just one word: 'Impeach.'"

New York's two Republican senators, Jacob K. Javits and James L. Buckley, were inundated by a total of 14,600 letters and telegrams running 99 percent for impeachment, aides said.

Sen. Richard Schweiker (R-Pa.), receiving 1800 letters daily, found no shift in criticism of the President even after he agreed to give up the tapes.

"It's running 10 to 1 against Nixon, and three out of four letters refer to impeachment," said Schweiker's press secretary, Dave Fisk.

Elmo Boydston, assistant House postmaster, said the usual monthly volume of mail to the representatives totals one million pieces.

"We're running at the rate of two million now," he said.

At the office of Rep. Peter R. Rodino (R-N.J.), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, the mail comes in big paper satchels — 5700 pieces last Thursday alone, running 97 or 98 percent in favor of impeachment, say Rodino aides.

Meanwhile, many Americans commenting on Nixon's news conference last night feel the President has

"lost all credibility" with the public and "should be impeached."

Others, however, think his "word is good" and that the reporters were "a little rude" in asking questions.

Some think Nixon is "sick" and "unbalanced," but others think he was "great" on television and that the reporters were approaching "treason" and trying to "jam it to him."

"I don't believe a word he says," declared Mrs. J. L. Brown, an Atlanta housewife. "If I were a member of the press I would have walked out and left him standing there alone."