

Nixon Loses Support of 3 Newspapers

Los Angeles

The Los Angeles Times, a staunch supporter of President Nixon, called yesterday for the impeachment of the President on the grounds of obstruction of justice.

The Times joined the Chicago Tribune and the Cleveland Plain Dealer as three major and normally conservative newspapers calling for the impeachment or resignation of the President.

"Nothing short of impeachment by the House of Representatives and trial by the Senate can now resolve the question of President Nixon's fitness to remain in office," the Times said in a 600-word editorial.

The editorial said the case for Mr. Nixon's indictment by Congress has "substantive proportions," based on most part from the Nixon transcripts.

"In our judgment, they contain presumptive evidence of at least one impeachable offense — the obstruction of justice — and also cast the gravest doubts on the two major points of Mr. Nixon's year-long defense:

• That he was not a party of the coverup.

• That on learning of it, he did his best to bring the guilty to justice."

The Cleveland Plain Dealer, normally a staunch Republican newspaper and supporter of President Nixon, said last night Mr. Nixon had "gone too far" and called for his impeachment.

In a front page editorial, the paper, which endorsed Mr. Nixon in 1968 and 1972, said it made its decision after a reading of the recently released transcripts of White House conversations.

"The transcripts of White House conversations clearly involve him in a coverup attempt to say the least," the editorial said.

"That and his refusal to

comply with the subpoenas of the Watergate special prosecutor and the House Judiciary Committee have virtually assured that the impeachment of President Nixon will become reality."

And the Chicago Tribune, one of the nation's strongest Republican editorial voices and a long-time supporter of President Nixon, called for Mr. Nixon to leave the presidency.

Speaking of Mr. Nixon, the Tribune said, "He is humorless to the point of being inhuman. He is devious. He is vacillating. He is profane. He is willing to be led. He displays dismaying gaps in knowledge. He is suspicious of his staff. His loyalty is minimal . . ."

United Press