

# 'Old Friends' Just the Same

Washington

As her husband's presidency approached a most precarious point, Pat Nixon shook the hands of nearly 1000 well-wishers yesterday.

Keeping a high profile as the House Judiciary Committee for the second time in history opened presidential impeachment proceedings, Mrs. Nixon starred at a Republican Capitol Hill Club reception for 500 people in her honor. One of the handful of Congressmen who came to greet her was House minority leader John Rhodes (Rep - Ariz.). That staunch Nixon man had earlier in the day said the President "should be considering" resignation.

"You didn't think I wouldn't come?" Rhodes bantered with reporters as he stood in line to shake Mrs. Nixon's hand. Asked if he were making a special gesture in appearing there the day impeachment proceedings began, he said "No. After all, the Nixons are old friends. This is in honor of Mrs. Nixon. I wouldn't not come."

As he went through the line, photographers (who with the rest of the press were cordoned off behind velvet ropes) called for a photograph. Rhodes turned to face the cameras, Mrs. Nixon stuck her arm through his, and said, "Now let's look like we're friendly."

They did.

Retiring Representative Henry P. Smith (Rep - N.Y.), who is third-ranking Republican on the Judiciary Committee, was also among those who came to greet the wife of his party's leader.

Maryland gubernatorial candidate Louise Gore, Representative Ancher Nelsen (Rep - Minn.), Senators Strom Thurmond (Rep - N.C.), Carl Curtis (Rep-Neb.) and John Tower (Rep-Texas) were also in the crowd. "It's no special gesture," Tower said. "I happen to like Pat Nixon. I also support the President."

Dr. Rosalie Yonan came through the line in evening dress, with a "Support the President" banner across her chest. "Come on," Mrs. Nixon called to the photographers. "You gotta get a picture of this."

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AP Wirephoto

PAT NIXON AND HOUSE GOP LEADER RHODES  
She said: 'Now let's look like we're friendly'