

Tapes Erode Area Nixon Hill Support

By Stephen Green
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Northern Virginia Republican Rep. Joel T. Broyhill yesterday said President Nixon should give "serious consideration to resigning" and called the edited Watergate tapes transcripts, "disgusting, humiliating and degrading."

While other congressmen from the Washington area, all Republicans, did not go as far as Broyhill, their comments indicate that the President has suffered a wide erosion of support among the Maryland and Virginia congressmen, who until now have been among his staunchest backers.

Broyhill, for example, voted with the President's position 70 per cent of the time last year in the House, compare with the average of 50.6 per cent for all congressmen.

"There is no way for him (Mr. Nixon) to win this thing now," said Broyhill. "Until recent days people would come up to me and say, 'Don't impeach the President.' This is diminishing."

"I've read part of the transcripts. I think they are disgusting, humiliating and degrading. Certainly a large degree of support for the President is deteriorating by leaps and bounds," Broyhill said.

"Resignation is an option he should give serious consideration to. He is not isolated from what is happening. His support is deteriorating beyond the technical aspect of whether he is guilty or not," added Broyhill, a 22-year veteran of the House.

Broyhill refused to state specifically whether he personally wants Mr. Nixon to resign, and instead repeated what he described as "rapidly deteriorating respect and support for the President."

Rep. Lawrence J. Hogan (D-Md.), who represents northern and central Prince George's County, said "it would be presumptuous of me to suggest" the President should resign, but added that a resignation "would lift a weighty burden from the country, the Congress and me, personally, and put behind us a lot of agony that we are still facing."

Hogan, a member of the House Judiciary Committee considering impeachment, declined to comment on the transcripts since they will be in evidence before the Committee. Last year Hogan supported Mr. Nixon 67 per cent of the time.

A spokesman for Republi-

See BROYHILL D2, Col. 3

Broyhill: Transcripts 'Degrading'

BROYHILL, From D1

can Rep. Gilbert Gude, who represents most of Montgomery County, said, "We would have to vote for impeachment." Even before the release of the transcripts, according to the spokesman, Gude believed "the facts indicated an obstruction of justice" and the transcripts have not changed his mind. Gude supported Mr. Nixon's legislative positions 40 per cent of the time last year.

Republican Rep. Stanford E. Parris, of Virginia's Eight District in Northern Virginia, "is very distressed after looking at the transcripts," according to a spokesman. Parris was a presidential supporter 64 per cent of the time last year.

Sen. William L. Scott (R-Va.) voted Mr. Nixon's position 72 per cent of the time last year and is considered one of his strongest supporters in the Senate. He said he "read about 100 pages of the transcripts before I went to bed last night. I have mixed feelings about it. I don't like the quality or tone of some of the words I've read."

Scott declined to answer directly whether he still favors the President as much as he did. "I hate to see things like blackmail being discussed in the White House, but I don't see any high crimes or misdemeanors." The senator said that if an impeachment charge comes before the Senate he will "vote on the evidence."

"Nobody's perfect," said Scott, referring to Mr. Nixon. "There are some good things about people and some bad things."

"I think President Nixon has been a wonderful President in many respects," said Scott, citing the ending of American fighting in the Vietnam. "On the other hand we've had some bad things that 'he may or may not' be responsible for, added Scott, questioning whether the



REP. JOEL T. BROYHILL
... quitting is "option"

President properly supervised his White House subordinates and his re-election committee.

"We only have one President. He's the only President we have I do feel the transcripts have damaged the President's image," said Scott.

Scott added that he thinks Mr. Nixon should remain in office for "the remainder of his term. It's not too much longer," he said. Mr. Nixon's term expires in 1976.

Sen. J. Glenn Beall Jr. (R-Md.) who supported Mr. Nixon's position 68 per cent of the time last year, said he has read some of the transcripts and is "rather disappointed. I don't like their tone, the moral tone, the general tone," he said, and declined to comment further.

Sen. Harry F. Byrd Jr. (I-Va.), who supported Mr. Nixon 63 per cent of the time last year, "is not commenting on anything relating to impeachment," his spokesman said. The spokesman said Byrd believes it would be improper for him to comment, since as a member of the Senate he may have to sit on judgment of the President.

Sen. Charles McC. Mathias (R-Md.) and Rep. Marjorie S. Holt (R-Md.) could not be reached for comment.

Broyhill, in November said Mr. Nixon should resign or be impeached if he cannot recapture public confidence. At that time, however, Broyhill said that he believed the President was regaining public support.