

# NIXON LOSES MORE BACKING; RUMORS THAT HE'LL RESIGN SWEEP CAPITAL, ARE DENIED

## SCHWEICKER PLEA

MAY 11 1974

Senator 3d in G.O.P. to  
Make Demand—'Deep  
Trouble' Is Noted  
NYTimes

By CHRISTOPHER LYDON  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 10—  
President Nixon's Republican  
support continued to deteriorate  
today in a capital rife with  
rumor of resignation and absorbed  
by doubts about the President's  
chances of riding out the  
Watergate crisis.

Old friends and allies, as well  
as long-time opponents, were  
abandoning Mr. Nixon's defense.  
Some House Republicans were  
looking for means of concerting  
their voices into a formal appeal  
that the President step down,  
or temporarily step aside. Within  
his own party, predictions grew  
more confident that if Mr. Nixon  
stayed in office, he would be  
impeached.

At the Capitol, full of members  
of Congress who normally leave  
Washington before the weekend,  
Republicans confirmed a marked  
shift of sentiment against the  
President—a shift that was reflected  
and encouraged by the suggestion  
yesterday by Representative John J.  
Rhodes, the House Republican  
leader, that Mr. Nixon think  
again about resigning.

Senator Richard S. Schweiker  
of Pennsylvania, a liberal who has  
frequently disagreed with the  
Nixon Administration on policy  
matters, became the third  
Republican Senator to urge the  
President to resign. He was preceded  
by Senator Edward W. Brooke  
of Massachusetts, a liberal,  
and Senator James L. Buckley  
of New York, a conservative.

### Support Disappearing

"I am compelled to speak  
out," said Mr. Schweiker, a  
candidate for re-election this year.  
"I cannot remain silent in the  
face of the now obvious moral

corrosion destroying and debasing  
the Presidency."

Other Republican Senators  
stopped short of explicit suggestions  
that Mr. Nixon step down. Senator  
Milton R. Young of North Dakota  
said today: "He's getting in deeper  
trouble all the time. It's a question  
of whether he can continue as  
President."

"It would be a whole lot easier  
for members of Congress and  
myself," said Mr. Young, also  
running for re-election, "if he  
used the 25th Amendment and  
stepped aside until this thing is  
cleared up."

The Amendment Senator Young  
referred to was ratified in 1967  
and provides that the Vice  
President can assume acting  
executive authority if he and the  
Cabinet persuade Congress that  
the President is "unable to  
discharge the powers and duties  
of his office."

Outspoken support for the  
President has virtually disappeared.  
"I doubt if there is

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anyone in the Senate who'd  
urge him to stay," said Senator  
Young. "There wouldn't be  
over five who you'd call hard-  
core supporters."

"There's a general collapsing  
of any support the President  
might have had," said Representative  
Charles W. Whalen Jr.,  
Republican of Ohio.

Senator Marlow W. Cook of  
Kentucky, a Republican candidate  
for a second term this year,  
commented last night that  
Mr. Nixon "must realistically  
contemplate" resigning because  
"the President has irretrievably  
lost any claim to the confidence  
of the American people."

But as more Republicans  
moved to record their dismay  
at the White House transcripts  
of Presidential conversations on  
Watergate, the party was clearly  
uncertain about how to  
impress its concern on Mr. Nixon.

Ironically, it was the President's  
relaxed and confident manner  
on Wednesday morning at the  
swearing-in of William E. Simon,  
the new Secretary of the Treasury,  
that prompted one group of  
House Republicans to consider form-

ing a delegation of protest to  
the White House.

When the so-called Wednesday  
Group—about a score of House  
Republicans, liberals and some  
conservatives who consider  
themselves "thoughtful"—  
gathered later that day, several  
members remarked, in effect,  
that "the White House is in a  
dream world, this is just  
intolerable, he's just got to go,"  
according to Mr. Whalen, a leader  
of the Wednesday Group.

### Protest Plan Shelved

The group expressed its feeling  
to Mr. Rhodes and may have  
stimulated his comments on  
resignation. But the idea of  
sending a delegation of  
Republicans to the White House,  
with a direct plea for  
resignation, has apparently  
been shelved.

Representative John B. Anderson  
of Illinois, a liberal Republican  
who said yesterday that  
Mr. Nixon had been "deeply  
involved" in the Watergate  
cover-up on at least one day  
in 1973 and predicted that he  
would be impeached if he did  
not resign, said today that  
House members would not  
petition the President as long  
as he held to a "hard line"  
against resignation—as  
White House spokesmen  
continued to do today.

"Obviously he's got the message,"  
Mr. Anderson said. "No  
matter how isolated he is,  
he's got to be aware of the  
volcanic winds blowing  
through the Capitol today."

He added: "As I view the  
House of Representatives,  
particularly on the  
Republican side of the  
aisle, there has just been  
a massive hemorrhaging  
of support for Nixon."

Here and among party  
leaders in the states,  
Republicans were saying  
that Senator Barry  
Goldwater of Arizona—  
"the archangel of the  
conservative movement,"  
as one House member  
called him—is the only  
party leader whose  
endorsement of  
resignation would make  
a critical difference  
with Mr. Nixon.

In Texas, for example,  
Polly Sowell, the vice  
chairman of the  
Republican party,  
commented that party  
workers are "very  
confused. They're  
waiting for a signal.  
If Goldwater asks  
for the President's  
resignation, every  
Republican in Texas  
would believe that  
would be the right  
thing to do."

Senator Goldwater  
told the Navy  
midshipmen at  
Annapolis, Md.,  
last Tuesday evening  
that if the House  
voted a bill of im-

peachment, Mr. Nixon would  
resign "rather than let the  
country be dragged through  
two or three months of  
terror" in a Senate trial.

But he said in the same  
appearance, "I don't think  
he should resign," and he  
has not commented on the  
subject since then. He could  
not be reached today.

Other Republican leaders,  
including Senators George  
D. Aiken of Vermont and  
John G. Tower of Texas,  
continued today to argue  
that the impeachment  
process must be allowed  
to run its course.

Clarke Reed, the influential  
chairman of the  
Republican party in  
Mississippi, said today,  
"The only thing [President  
Nixon] could do to make  
me mad would be to  
resign. It would be a  
cop-out and a very  
bad precedent."

"As a traditionalist and a  
believer in the stable  
course, I'd rather see  
[impeachment proceedings]  
go ahead. Even if it's  
on TV, and even if it  
means a Democratic  
"veto-proof" Congress  
in the fall, there are  
times when you have to  
put the republic ahead  
of the Republican party,"  
Mr. Reed said.

Among House  
Republicans, however—  
all of whom would  
face re-election this  
year, and most of whom  
are torn between  
loyalty to the head of  
their party and the  
anti-Nixon sentiment  
of their constituents—

there was talk today  
that the safest way  
out would be a  
consolidated vote  
for impeachment.

Everyone worries  
about the 20 to 30  
per cent support for  
Mr. Nixon that the  
polls report, one  
Mid-Western  
Representative  
said today. "Well,  
one way to take  
care of that is to  
have an  
overwhelming  
Republican vote  
against the  
President. The  
liberals can  
point to  
conservatives  
who voted for  
impeachment;  
the  
conservatives  
can say, "So  
did the  
liberals,""

The White House,  
steadfastly  
denying even a  
chance of  
resignation,  
issued Mrs.  
Nixon's  
view that the  
President will  
stick to his  
job.

"Mrs. Nixon is a  
loyal person  
herself and she  
thinks it's  
time to rally,"  
said her  
spokesman,  
Helen Smith.  
The President's  
wife "can stand  
these things  
because she  
feels she  
knows the  
truth," Mrs.  
Smith said,  
"but she can't  
understand  
the  
Republican  
leadership.  
She believes  
strongly in  
loyalty."

Gerald L. Warren,  
the deputy  
White House  
press secretary,  
scorned  
Senator  
Schweiker's  
call for  
resignation  
today as  
the expression  
of an old  
adversary.  
"I really  
don't detect  
any shift in  
the Senator's  
position,"  
Mr. Warren  
said.

Senator  
Schweiker has  
differed  
sharply with  
the  
Administration  
on its  
Vietnam  
policies,  
its  
judicial  
appointments  
and a  
variety of  
legislative  
matters.

The Senator  
has the  
support of  
organized  
labor—a  
rarity for  
Republicans—in  
his  
re-election  
campaign.  
And  
organized  
labor,  
notably  
the  
American  
Federation  
of Labor  
and  
Congress of  
Industrial  
Organizations,  
has  
lobbied  
actively  
for  
Mr. Nixon's  
impeachment.





Associated Press

**Senator Richard S. Schweiker, Pennsylvania Republican, discussing President Nixon yesterday in Washington.**