

# Senators See No Sign of

By Spencer Rich

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Key Democratic and Republican senators say they don't see any evidence yet that President Nixon has launched a campaign aimed at currying favor with Senate conservatives in order to lock up the 34 votes Mr. Nixon would need to block removal from office.

Many concede that it might be logical for Mr. Nixon to draw up a list of 34 senators most likely to back him in a Senate showdown if the House votes impeachment charges, and then start throwing projects their way and tailoring his policies to win their favor.

And they say it may yet come to that.

But despite a recent charge by Sen. Walter F. Mondale (D-Minn.) that Mr. Nixon is already "undermining the legislative process by offering legislative deals to sway congressional opinion against impeachment," many of the very senators on whom Mr. Nixon could be expected to focus say they don't see any real evidence so far.

"No, there are no extra projects, nothing, we haven't

been offered anything," said Dewey Bartlett (R-Okla.).

Peter Domenici (R-N.M.) said, "No, not a bit of it, no change in their treatment of us at all. I read that one senator claimed we're being 'assiduously courted.' I hope they'll tell me that."

Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), a Southern conservative who would be a prime candidate for some special attention by the White House, said, "No, I've seen no sign of it. If any project's been thrown at me, it's missed me. I don't think it would be received well if he did it."

And a handful of liberals gave the same reply. "I really don't see it," said Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) "Maybe they think my vote's gone anyhow," he laughingly added.

Charles McC. Mathias Jr. (R-Md.) said, "Not that I know of, I never hear from them." James B. Pearson (R-Kan.), like Mathias a GOP liberal who has frequently opposed Mr. Nixon, said, "No, but I don't have any contact with them."

Senate Majority Whip Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.) said he didn't see any real difference in White House positions on legislation, and little sign of

any conservative turn. "The President's always been against forced busing," Byrd noted, and his domestic policies always generally conservative.

An aide to one of the Senate's top Republicans made the same point, and said the White House spokesmen and legislative lobbyists were pretty much sticking to the same people who have always been their allies—the Southern Democrats and conservative Republicans.

"They're talking to the same guys they've been talking to for six years. There's no new spate of projects or appointments. Their policies haven't changed. These are their natural allies and always have been. Two years ago they were calling it the Southern strategy. It's the same thing."

Tom Korologos, the White House's chief Senate liaison, angrily denied the theory of "impeachment politics."

"We haven't any list, we haven't changed positions, we haven't given away any special favors, we're talking to the same people we've always talked to" he said.

A GOP aide said the White House might find itself in a risky game if it tried impeach-

ment politics. For one thing, there are fewer than 40 deep-dyed conservatives in the Senate, and many of these undoubtedly will vote on the evidence, regardless of presidential favors. So a conservative turn would risk alienating the 60 non-conservatives without really locking up the needed votes for Mr. Nixon.

Also, many senators might well resent anything that seemed like a covert attempt to buy their votes, especially if it got into the press. It could backfire.

Still, there remains a suspicion that if the House votes impeachment and a Senate trial begins, the White House will tend to lean heavily on the same senators who have usually supported it in six years of ferocious battles with the liberal block—namely, power conservative Southern Chairmen like John Stennis (D-Miss.) of the Armed Services Committee, James O. Eastland (D-Miss.) of Judiciary and John L. McClellan (D-Ark.) of Appropriations, plus the 25-to-30-member conservative wing of the Senate GOP.

Maybe then the game of impeachment politics will start in earnest. But right now, it isn't much in evidence.

## Nixon Courting Conservatives