

Hogan Gains Key Political Exposure

By Bill Richards
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Rep. Lawrence J. Hogan (R-Md.) apparently has won a lot of political exposure in his campaign for governor of Maryland as the result of his dramatic announcement Tuesday that he plans to cast his vote in the House Judiciary Committee for the impeachment of President Nixon.

The conclusion comes from an informal and unscientific voter sampling by Washington Post reporters at random locations in Baltimore City and Montgomery and Prince George's counties.

The interviews with several dozen persons also indicated that Hogan apparently still lacks a high degree of voter identification (as his earlier polls had shown) and may have made some enemies by his public stand against the President. Some of those interviewed thought Hogan's announcement would help him politically in his gubernatorial campaign.

Hogan is seeking the Republican nomination in an effort to unseat Democratic incumbent Gov. Marvin Mandel.

"He's a sorehead who's willing to do anything to be governor," said Mrs. J. Gordon Bassett, a gray-haired woman who was briskly striding along St Paul Street in Baltimore yesterday with a shopping bag on her arm.

Mrs. Gordon, who said she is a registered Democrat, nevertheless indicated some sympathy toward the President and little toward Hogan. "He's only got a year or so more and they all do it anyway," she said of Mr. Nixon.

Of Hogan she said, "If I thought he was a good man I'd vote for him no matter what I am. But this soured

me on him for good, I'm afraid."

Virtually all of the dozens of persons approached by the reporters said they were aware of Hogan's announcement, though some said they did not know he was running for governor.

"That does put a different light on the whole thing," said Fred Mastvogel, a 26-year-old architectural student who was sitting on a park bench across from Baltimore's City Hall, munching a sandwich and watching a doll fashion show nearby.

Mastvogel, a political independent, said he was clearly opposed to the President remaining in office. "He's done things that the rest of us would be in jail for right now," he said. But of Hogan's decision on impeachment, he said the announcement would not be decisive in his choice of a gubernatorial candidate. "One act doesn't make a pattern or a man's political profile," he said.

Baltimore, with its heavy concentration of Democrats and strong support for Gov. Mandel in the past, was considered by some observers as a prime target for Hogan's charges against the Republican President.

In Montgomery County, another expected Mandel stronghold, only two of a dozen persons approached by a reporter said they would be strongly influenced by Hogan's announcement.

Nancy Clark, 25, of 5526 Beasley Ct., Rockville, who was shopping in the Montgomery Mall in North Bethesda, said Hogan's stand probably would contribute to her decision to vote for him if he becomes the Republican candidate for governor.

"I think I'm glad he had enough conviction to make the statement," she said. "I'd be inclined to think it would hurt him. I don't think the majority of older voters want to see the President impeached."

Her own decision, she said, would not necessarily be based on Hogan's charges that the President committed impeachable offenses. The impact, she said, "would not be because of what he said but because he had the guts to say it."

Nearby in the air-conditioned mall, Florence Thomas, of 9501 Old Georgetown Rd., Bethesda, said she thought Hogan was selfish

to make the announcement of his vote before the Committee voting took place.

Mrs. Thomas, a registered Democrat, said that before Tuesday she was "100 per cent for Hogan." His decision to make an early announcement of his vote influenced her against voting for him in November. "I vote on integrity," she said.

None of the 12 persons queried in Montgomery County said that they believed that Hogan's announcement would alter the outcome of the governor's race, which they said they felt would be lost by Hogan.

In the Prince George's County congressman's home district, eight out of a dozen persons interviewed said they would not be influenced by Hogan's action.

Contributing to this story were Washington Post staff writers Ben Johnson and Gail Robinson.