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EXAM

# Impeachment test gains favor in U.S.

By William Theis  
Chief Examiner Washington Bureau

American grassroots leaders generally now favor the impeachment process as the right way to determine President Nixon's Watergate guilt or innocence and are disdainful of the resignation alternative that he also rejects.

All but a very few of the opinion makers contacted in a national Hearst Newspapers survey predicted that inflation and the economy will top Watergate as an issue in this year's elections.

That feeling was reflected from the nation's governors, convening today in Seattle for their annual conference, down to local leaders of both parties and representative business and labor spokesmen.

Most of those interviewed want the impeachment inquiry to go ahead full throttle. Some view the investigation now in the House Judiciary Committee as a "cleansing" for the body politic as well as a judgment of the President. And they regard a pressured resignation as a bad precedent for the office and the country.

This "political pulse" survey provided mixed opinion on how badly Republican candidates would be hurt by Watergate. Texas Republicans reported a "demoralizing" setback in their drive to build a two-party system there and were perhaps hardest hit by the shock of the Watergate transcripts.

The reports came from Hearst newspapers in Boston, Baltimore, Albany, Seattle, San Antonio, San Francisco and Los Angeles, and from special correspondents in Detroit and Atlanta. They follow:

## ● In Baltimore . . .

By David Ahern

BALTIMORE — Leaders in Maryland, which made scandal a household word in 1973, want impeachment proceedings against President Nixon to be pushed ahead full throttle.

They don't think the President should resign and they are not sure what effects Watergate will have on the 1974 election races in the area.

Democratic Gov. Marvin Mandel said he favors impeachment.

State Republican party head, State Sen. Edward P. Thomas Jr., said he hoped the constitutional process would get the facts out as soon as possible and the government could "get on with the business of running the country."