

SHAKE-UP LAUDED BY CONGRESSMEN

But Many Warn That Step
Is Not Enough to Restore
Faith in Administration

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By JAMES M. NAUGHTON

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WASHINGTON, April 30 —

Members of Congress joined in widespread, bipartisan praise today for President Nixon's shake-up of his Administration's high command.

But many Senators and Representatives coupled their commendations with warnings that a housecleaning of the White House staff would not be sufficient to restore faith in the Nixon Administration or the Government as a whole.

Furthermore, Representative John E. Moss of California urged House Democratic leaders to open a formal inquiry into the possible impeachment of President Nixon.

The suggestion by the long-time Democratic Congressman—which key leaders of both parties in the House described as “premature” — was the most severe reaction on Capitol Hill to the latest developments in the Watergate conspiracy case.

Mark O. Hatfield, Republican of Oregon, declared on the Senate floor that the President would have to follow up the resignations and dismissals from his Administration by convincing the public that he

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Shake-Up by Nixon Hailed in Congress

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had told “the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.”

The Senate Republican leader, Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, hinted broadly and others declared flatly that the Watergate investigation should be turned over to an impartial, prominent figure outside the Administration.

At Huron, Ohio, the nation's Democratic Governors joined in the call for appointment of a special prosecutor in the Watergate case.

Several key officials of Congress appeared prepared, for the moment, to join Representative Moss in exploring impeachment proceedings. But the leadership made clear that it took the suggestion seriously.

Moss Asks Special Unit

Mr. Moss told newsmen that he believed a select committee of the House should be impaneled to investigate “possible involvement of the President in conduct that might lead to initiation of impeachment action.”

The Constitution provides that the House of Representatives may impeach—in effect, indict—any official of the Government, from the President down, for “high crimes and misdemeanors.” If two-thirds of the House members impeach and official, the Senate convenes as a court to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to remove the official from office.

Only 12 times, beginning in 1798, has the Senate sat as a court of impeachment. Four Federal judges were removed from office, one judge resigned during his Senate trial and the other seven individuals—including President Andrew Johnson in 1868—were acquitted.

Scott Met With Nixon

Senator Scott said that he had been convinced by a long, confidential discussion with the President on March 20, that Mr. Nixon had no knowledge of the extent to which people in the White House or workers in the Presidential election campaign were involved in the Watergate conspiracy or attempts to cover it up.

But Mr. Moss said that he found it “most difficult to conceive that the President was not aware of Watergate” and all its implications during the 10 months that the conspiracy has been before the public.

Speaking of a possible impeachment, Mr. Moss said, “I'm not saying we should do

it, but we should prepare ourselves to have all the facts.”

He reportedly met this afternoon with the House speaker, Carl Albert, to suggest formally the impeachment inquiry. Mr. Albert's reaction could not be obtained, but the House Democratic leader, Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. of Massachusetts, said that the leadership “feels, at this time, that the Moss idea is a bit premature.”

“The time could come when such a committee should be set up,” Mr. O'Neill added.

He said that in the privacy of the Congressional cloakroom there had been widespread sentiment for an effort to “censure” the President.

Representative John B. Anderson of Illinois, chairman of the House Republican Conference, also chose the word “premature” to describe the impeachment proposal.

Ousters Called First Step

Mr. Anderson joined other members of Congress—among whom Republicans were the most ardent—in suggesting that the departure of the Attorney General and three senior White first step.

“Until it has been amply demonstrated to the American public that the last shadowy element in this tragedy has been brought to light, that every possible question has been asked and answered satisfactorily, our institutions of Government will remain under a cloud,” Mr. Anderson said.

Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., Democrat of North Carolina, and Senator Howard H. Baker Jr., Republican of Tennessee, the ranking members of the Senate Select Committee Investigating the Watergate Conspiracy, both said that the White House shake-up and the President's speech tonight would not alter their plans to begin hearings on May 15.

List of Possible Witnesses

Mr. Baker said that the committee had a three-page list of prospective witnesses it could examine about the bugging of Democratic National Committee offices last June, the subsequent attempts to cover it up, allegations of sabotage directed at Democratic Presidential contenders and charges of Republican Presidential campaign financing irregularities.

If anything, Mr. Baker said, the developments today added to the committee's sense of urgency.

“The sooner we do it and get it over with, the better off the country will be,” he said.

Throughout the day, members of Congress, who had just returned from sampling the at-

titudes of constituents during a 10-day Easter recess, took the floor or visited the press galleries to comment on the Watergate situation.

The resignations of H. R. Haldeman, the White House chief of staff, and John D. Ehrlichman, the President's chief counselor on domestic matters, prompted particular relief among legislators who long had complained that the two aides had insulated the President from them.

Calls for Cooperation

“What the President needs now,” Senator Scott said, “is a first assistant or chief of staff who can work in complete cooperation with Congress.” He suggested several former Republican legislators as possibilities.

Mr. Scott, echoing other Republicans, emphasized that no professional politicians had been linked to any wrongdoing.

He said that “overzealous amateurs with too much money and too little sense have been running wild too long.”

Senator Charles H. Percy of Illinois and Representative William J. Scherle of Iowa, both Republicans, voiced the hope that relations between Congress and the White House would now improve.

Mr. Percy said that he had been “subjected to what I would say were tactics to get me into line” because of his opposition of the President's programs in some areas. Asked for specifics, he said that Mr. Ehrlichman had seen to it that a project of the senator's, the National Home Ownership Foundation, was not carried out as retaliation for Mr. Percy's vote against the antiballistic missile program.

Mr. Scherle, the first member to take the House floor today, said that he presumed everyone was aware that “the Katzenbach Kids”—Mr. Haldeman and Mr. Ehrlichman—were out along with Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst and the White House counsel, John W. Dean 3d.

“To these people, I have only two words to say: Good riddance,” Mr. Scherle added.

Senator Percy said that he would not decide until tomorrow whether to introduce a “Sense of the Senate” resolution calling for the appointment of an outside prosecutor in the Watergate case. Among its cosponsors, he said, were Senators Barry Goldwater of Arizona, Robert J. Dole of Kansas and Richard S. Schweiker of Pennsylvania, all Republicans.