

A Nixon Support Plan

A White House official contacted the Veterans of Foreign Wars and several other large national organizations seeking telegrams and other "spontaneous" expressions of support of the televised press conference President Nixon had scheduled for last night.

A VFW official, who asked not to be identified, said he received a call Tuesday night from William F. Rhatican, an assistant to White House Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler, in which Rhatican suggested that VFW members could send favorable telegrams to Mr. Nixon after the press conference.

The White House and congressional offices have been swamped with telegrams, letters and telephone calls — an overwhelming majority of which advocated impeachment of Mr. Nixon — as a result of Mr. Nixon's firing of Watergate special prosecutor Archibald Cox.

E. Douglas Kenna, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, said Rhatican made a telephone call on Wednesday to Eugene Hardy, a registered lobbyist for NAM, to discuss the press conference, which was postponed as a result of the Middle East crisis.

Kenna described Rhatican's call as "purely a routine notification that there would be a press conference and we might be interested."

The association, Kenna said, "looks at all elements of a press conference and then decides whether to comment."

The White House said last night that Rhatican was in New Jersey and would be unavailable for comment.

A spokesman for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce said his organization has frequently been approached by the White House to solicit reaction to the President's handling of various issues, but he denied that such was the case following the Cox firing.

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