

A Song for Nixon - - 'Hang In There'

Washington

President Nixon's counter-offensive against his Watergate critics now has a marching song.

It's called "Hang In There, Mr. President," and is available on sheet music and record. While it has a long way to go before reaching the top 40, it's already given Mr. Nixon's spirits a lift.

"You may be sure the steadfast support represented by your special remembrance is particularly appreciated," the President wrote to composer Henry Tobias, a long-time denizen of Tin Pan Alley who now sets his words to music in West Hollywood.

Tobias, who composed such old timers as "Miss You," and "If I Had My Life to Live Over," considers himself a Democrat, but has written Nixon songs before — "Fixing a Date With Nixon" in the 1960 campaign and "I'm a Democrat for Nixon" in 1972.

"I feel very strongly about this," Tobias said in a telephone interview. "They're jumping on him too strong for the crime. Even if he's found guilty I don't think he deserves impeachment."

Tobias' latest effort was suggested by Richard Mason, a campaign aide in the Democrats for Nixon organization and a former economics analyst for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mason now operates Telemark Dance Records in McLean, Va., which is distributing "Hang In There."

So far it hasn't sold very much. Mason has had about 60 orders since the record was produced last month and figures he needs to sell about 500 to break even.

"This could turn out to be what we call a black matzoh in the trade," Mason said. "That's when you can't sell them so you have to eat them."

To stimulate demand Mason has given free copies to all 41 Republican senators. And he hopes that a recent story in the Republican National Committee publication, First Monday, will bring in some orders.

Undaunted by the very gradual success of his creation, Tobias plans to bring out all three of his Nixon songs, together with a special version of "Hail to the Chief" in one folio of sheet music under the title "Let's Sing for the President."

The lyrics to "Hang In There," which are to be sung "Bright, With Spirit," go like this:

*Hang in there, Mister President;
Fight! Fight! Fight!
We are with you, Mister President,
With all our might.
They may use you and abuse you,
Holler quit, quit, quit;
But you've heard that all before,
Just clench your fist and grit.
You've got courage, so just reach 'em
And Fight! Fight! Fight!
Let them holler "Let's impeach 'im!"
They're wrong, you're right.
Let them holler, let them cry.
You just keep your head up high.
So hang in there, Mister President;
Fight! Fight! Fight!*

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