

# Nixon Mich. Trip Did Help a Little

DETROIT, April 18 (UPI)—President Nixon's visit to the 8th congressional district last week to campaign for republican candidate James M. Sparling Jr. did "some good" for Sparling but not enough to overcome voter discontent about Mr. Nixon's tax problems and the Watergate scandals, Knight newspapers reported in Thursday editions.

The issues that were foremost on the voters' minds—peace, crime and the high cost of living—were not the decisive ones in determining the outcome," the Detroit Free Press said in a copyrighted story based on a survey.

"The more upset a voter was with the president's income tax, the more likely he was to vote for (Democrat J. Bob) Traxler," the Free Press said.

Traxler beat Sparling by more than 3,000 votes to become the first Democrat in 42 years to represent the mostly rural district of Michigan's Thumb area.

A total of 1,506 voters were questioned in the survey by Knight Newspapers as they left polling areas in the seven counties of the district.

"Among the independent voters, those who called Nixon's tax trouble 'extremely important' votes went for the Democrat by a 3-1 margin," the newspaper said.

"A similar pattern was found among those independent voters who considered the Watergate scandals 'extremely important,'" the Free Press said.

Michigan voters also expressed a "clear desire" to show "the rest of the country how they felt about the issues and a small (54 to 46 per cent) majority said they wanted the man elected Tuesday to impeach the President," the story said.

"Nine voters of 10 said the most important thing in deciding their vote was choosing the best person to represent them in Congress," the Free Press said. And 56 per cent said that 'showing the rest of the country how we feel about things' was extremely important."

The survey also found that 75 per cent of the voters said they were left with a positive impression of President Nixon's visit but only 12 per cent said that the good impression was strong enough to make them want to vote for the Republican candidate.

"In contrast, 35 per cent said Nixon left an unfavorable

impression and 14 per cent said this impression was so poor that it made them want to vote for the Democratic candidate," the story said.

The survey said independent voters who had a positive impression of Mr. Nixon gave him a near two-thirds majority while nearly a third of the voters said they paid no attention at all to Mr. Nixon's visit, and they voted for Traxler by more than a 4-1 margin.