

Impeachment Poll Leans Anti-Nixon

A nationwide poll by the Roper Organization shows that congressmen have more to fear from voting against the impeachment of President Nixon than voting for it.

The poll found that only 9 per cent of the voters say they would vote against a House member if he voted for an impeachment resolution, compared to 24 per cent who would vote against him if he opposed it.

The remaining voters are undecided (18 per cent) or say it would make no difference in their vote (49 per cent).

While the greatest anti-

Nixon sentiment as reflected in the poll was in the Northeast, congressmen stand to gain more by favoring impeachment in every section of the country.

The figures in the West, the President's best section in the Roper poll, showed 12 per cent who would vote against a congressman favoring impeachment and 23 per cent who would vote against a congressman opposing it.

The figures in the South, where Mr. Nixon is generally thought to be strongest, were 10 and 22. They were 10 and 21 in the Midwest and 6 and 30 in the Northeast.

Most importantly for Mr. Nixon's survival chances, the poll showed that Republican congressmen were likely to be damaged no matter which way they vote.

Nineteen per cent of Republican voters say they would oppose a congressman who voted for Mr. Nixon's impeachment, compared to 14 per cent who say they would vote against a congressman opposing impeachment.

But the independent vote, which is crucial for many Republican congressmen, goes heavily against the President. Ten per cent of this group say they would vote against the pro-im-

peachment congressmen while 20 per cent say they would vote against him if he opposed impeachment.

In practical political terms, the Roper survey thus confirms what Republican congressmen have been saying on the basis of their own findings for many weeks, that they are in a "no-win" position on the impeachment vote.

Democratic voters are overwhelmingly pro-impeachment. Only 5 per cent of the Democrats say they would vote against a congressman who supported impeachment, while 31 per cent say they would vote against congressman who opposed it.