

# Six on Impeachment Panel Face

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WASHINGTON, July 1 — At least a half-dozen members of the House Judiciary Committee are facing difficult re-election campaigns even as they ponder whether to recommend that President Nixon be impeached. Although they would be having trouble had three been no Watergate, Republican and Democratic strategists agree that the scandals have exacerbated their problems. Their membership on the Judiciary Committee, which means that they will have to vote yeay or nay on impeachment well before the elections in November, further complicates their situation.

Of the 21 Democratic members of the committee, only one — representative Edward Mezvinsky, a 37-year-old first-term Congressman from Iowa — is in serious trouble, a survey by The New York Times indicates.

Among the 17 Republicans, however, five are considered to be in some degree of jeopardy. They are Representatives Joseph J. Mariziti and Charles W. Sandman Jr. of New Jersey, Wiley Mayne of Iowa, David W. Dennis of Indiana and Harold V. Froelich of Wisconsin.

### Situation at Home

For several of the Republicans, the political situation in their home districts could affect the way they will vote on impeachment. The way some of them vote could, in turn, affect their chances for re-election.

More Republicans than Democrats appear to be in difficulty for a combination of reasons. More of the Republican seats are marginal, the party in power in the White House generally loses seats in off-year elections, and Watergate is expected to cut more heavily against them.

If, as George Bush, the Republican National Chairman, has hopefully suggested, all incumbents are hurt by Watergate, some seemingly safe Democrats could be beaten.

But for the moment, profes-

sionals of both parties believe that all 21 Democrats will vote to impeach, and that all, except perhaps Mr. Mezvinsky, will survive the re-election campaign. That includes the committee's three Southerners, probably the only Democratic members in whose districts show strong sentiment against impeachment.

Two of the three — Representatives Ray Thornton of Arkansas and Walter Flowers of Alabama — have no major-party opposition this fall. The third, Representative James R. Mann of South Carolina, is not expected to have much difficulty in beating back a Republican challenge.

### Danger for Others

If Mr. Bush is wrong and Watergate produces an anti-Republican rather than anti-incumbent tide, a number of Republicans other than the five now listed as vulnerable could lose their seats.

In five special Congressional elections earlier this year, all of which involved seats formerly held by Republicans, Democrats won four and the Republican vote fell an average of 17.7 per cent.

Unless all traditional political calculations are rendered invalid by Watergate, incumbent Republicans — with their greater identification in their districts and the ability to use their offices to promote their re-election — should fare somewhat better than the non-incumbent Republicans who tried to hold the five seats in the by-elections.

But a comparison of the 1972 results with the 17.7 per cent dropoff suggests what conceivably could happen. Representative Trent Lott of Mississippi, for example, won by only 11.1 per cent, Representative Carlos J. Moorhead of California by 14.8 per cent and Representatives M. Caldwell Butler of Virginia by 9.2 per cent over the combined total of his two opponents.

Representative William S. Cohen of Maine, perhaps the most likely anti-Nixon vote on the committee, would appear to be in jeopardy on this and sev-

eral other counts: he is first-term, he won by only 8.8 per cent in 1972, he is the only major Republican office holder in the state, and he is opposed by a well-known former Vietnam prisoner, Marcus Gartley.

### Easy Victory Expected

Yet political observers in the state, as well as Republican and Democratic experts on Capitol Hill, expect Mr. Cohen to win reatively easily.

Two members of the committee are feeling no electoral pressure whatever because they are retiring from politics. They are Representatives Harold D. Donohue, Democrat of Massachusetts, and Henry P. Smith 3d of upstate New York.

Two others are leaving the House to run for other offices. Representative Wayne Owens, Democrat of Utah, who is counted as a sure pro-impeachment vote, is seeking the senate seat of Wallace F. Bennett, a Republican who is retiring, and Representative Lawrence J. Hogan of Maryland, a republican, is challenging Gov. Marvin Mandel.

Mr. Hogan, a former agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation who came to office as a conservative and a foe of busing, had been considered a Nixon defender. But many in his district, and on Capitol Hill wonder whether his campaign against the well-entrenched Mandel may cause him some second thoughts.

"Larry wouldn't beat Marvin Mandel with a club," said a Republican who knows Maryland politics well. "But he'll stretch to do it, and with all the corruption they've had — Agnew and all the best — he may want to run as Mr. Clean. That could lead him to vote for impeachment if the evidence is sufficient to justify it."

### Mariziti's Problems

The five Republicans considered most vulnerable face special, local problems as well as Watergate. Their situations are as follows:

Mr. Mariziti, a 61-year-old first-term whose northwestern New Jersey district was designed especially for him, de-



Elizabeth Holtzman of Brooklyn and Wayne Owens of Utah, Democrats, exchanging views before yesterday's session of the House Judiciary Committee started.

The New York Times/George Tames

## Re-election Difficulties

feated his 1972 opponent, Helen S. Meyner, wife of the former Governor, by only 25,000 votes two years ago. He faces her again in November.

Normally, Mr. Mariziti would be considered quite safe, a Democratic professional conceded, particularly since he spends as many as five nights a week in the district cultivating his constituents.

"I agree," a Republican counterpart said, "but Watergate could really hurt him, especially with some of the suburban Republicans he counts on. If I were Joe, I'd play the grand juror and vote to impeach if the evidence can possibly sustain it. He might need that vote to survive."

Mr. Sandman's problems are more complex. He is heavily in debt as a result of a disastrous governorship campaign in which he failed to carry his own district.

The Atlantic City Republican machine, which once produced heavy pluralities for him, is in a shambles. And William J. Hughes, a conservative Democrat who came within 4,500 votes of beating him in 1970, is mounting another campaign for November.

There appears to be no possibility, however, that Mr. Sandman, a hard-line conservative, will abandon Mr. Nixon. It probably would not help him much in any case.

### Inventor in Race

Mr. Mayne, like many of his colleagues, frets about his inability to return to his Iowa district to campaign. A respected lawyer who has difficulty projecting personal warmth, he feels he needs intensive campaigning to won, especially in view of Watergate and the Democratic trend in his state.

His opponent, Berkley Bedell, a millionaire who invented the monofilament fishing line, came within 9,1710 votes against Mr. Mayne in 1972.

In Indiana, Mr. Dennis has many of the same problems as Mr. Mayne, although he is considered somewhat stronger.

For the third straight election, his opponent will be Philip Sharp, a college professor. In 1970, Mr. Sharp lost by 2,500 votes; in 1972, hurt by redistricting, he lost by 27,000.

A pro-Nixon vote by Mr. Dennis, considered highly likely, could be enough to put Mr. Sharp over the top, in the view of some Indiana observers.

Mr. Froelich, a first-termer, won his district in the Appleton-Green Bay area in 1972 by fewer than 4,000 votes, and the consensus in Wisconsin is that he will not be able to hold his seat. His probable opponent is the man he beat then, the Rev. Robert J. Cornell, a Roman Catholic priest.

"He'd lose his Republican base if he went against Nixon," said a Republican who has studied the district, "although he might do it. Watergate can't help him, and neither can the Judiciary Committee, but he'd have problems if he was on Agriculture."

Mr. Mezvinsky represents a swing district in Iowa that he won two years ago with only 53 per cent of the vote. His Republican opponent, Jim Leach, a former Foreign Service officer, hopes to make political capital of the fact that Mr. Mezvinsky accepted contributions from milk-producing organizations that have been accused of campaign-funding improprieties.

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