

Telegrams Continue

Impeachment Demands Flow Even After Tapes Turnaround

By William Claiborne
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Despite President Nixon's capitulation on the issue of the Watergate tapes, a deluge of telegrams and telephone calls continued to pour into the office of congressmen yesterday, many of them advocating impeachment in the face of the President's action.

The Western Union Co., which has become a barometer of public sentiment over the political upheaval, said its already-overloaded circuits have handled 220,000 paid public opinion telegrams since Mr. Nixon fired Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox Saturday. The telegrams processed yesterday—an overwhelming majority of which advocated the impeachment of Mr. Nixon—represented nearly a third of those sent during the entire three-day holiday weekend.

Western Union said last night that it was still running 30 per cent above normal, and that 207,000 of the cumulative total of 220,000 telegrams had gone to Capitol Hill.

White House officials said they have received "mountains" of telegrams, letters and telephone messages, but still had not begun to separate them by category or even attempt to determine the total number.

The Senate Watergate committee said it has now accumulated more than 8,000 telegrams, only 10 of which favored the President's firing of Cox. The Watergate special prosecu-

tor's office said it had received about 10,000 telegrams, all but a handful of which were unfavorable to the President.

Because of the backlog of telegrams in the Capitol Hill offices of Western Union, most congressional staffs were unable last night to distinguish between messages sent before the President relented on the tapes issues and those sent afterward.

However, Rep. Peter Rodino (D-N.J.), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, received 400 telegrams after Mr. Nixon's announcement, a staff aide said. All of the messages mentioned impeachment or otherwise voiced opposition to Mr. Nixon, a spokesman for Rodino said.

Sen. John V. Tunney (D-Calif.), who on Tuesday counted 1,299 telegrams for impeachment and only 1 against, said his office received 50 telegrams Tuesday night, all of which advocated impeachment proceedings despite the President's decision to surrender the tapes. In all, Tunney has received more than 8,000 telegrams since Saturday, most of which remained untallied, a staff aide said.

A spokesman for Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.) said his office received 20 telegrams after Tuesday's White House announcement on the tapes issue, 17 of which called for impeachment of the president.

Rep. Paul Findley (R-Ill.)



REP. PETER RODINO
... 400 against Nixon

said he had received "several hundred" telegrams since Tuesday's announcement, of which only 6 favored the President.

Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) received messages at a rate of 80 to 1 against the President even after the tapes decision was announced, a staff spokesman said.

Sen. Charles McC. Mathias (R-Md.) said he received 400 telegrams since the tapes announcement, with an approximate ratio of 10 to 1 for impeachment. Before the tapes issue was settled, Mathias said, the impeachment proportion was about 15 to 1.

Typical of the messages received yesterday by Mathias was one from an Anne Arundel County woman, who declared: "Just because the President was able to find a lifeboat doesn't make him a master mariner."

Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), who on Tuesday reported pro-impeachment telegrams running at a rate of 2,800 to 21, said yesterday the figure had climbed to 6,447 in favor of impeachment and 197 against.