

Across U.S., People Tell Why They Back Nixon, and

By JERRY M. FLINT

From the 5:02 commuter train to Stamford, Noroton Heights and Darien, Conn., to the Admiral Idd Club in San Diego, President Nixon still has his supporters.

And from Hoarty Brothers men's bar at Boston to Little Havana in Miami, he has his detractors, many of whom defected with in the last few days.

And, interviews across the nation show, the thought of impeaching the President still runs against the grain of many Americans. But large numbers also feel that the special Watergate prosecutor, Archibald Cox, was dismissed, as Bill Glass at Hoarty's said, because he "got too close to home."

In their own private worlds, Americans are still sharply divided on Richard Nixon, who less than a year ago carried 49 of the 50 states.

Around the pool at Sun City, Ariz., the retirement community, the president gets heavy support.

"They ought to get rid of all those old Democrats, all those people who have gotten us into wars since I was 18," said Doc (as he calls himself) Harris. And dismissing Mr. Cox was a good idea, because he had been "doing things he shouldn't have been doing, hiring 80 lawyers, spending money," he added.

"If they're going to investigate him, everyone in Washington should be investigated — everyone's a crook," said E. H. Brown. His wife said, "Cox brought in a bunch of liberals who were just out to get Nixon."

But a younger crowd at R-Gees, a country Western night-club at Tempe, could not think any differently.

"Jesus Christ isn't above the



Robert Wilkinson

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Morris Goodman

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law if he's an American," said Charlie Kellams, a country Western musician. He favors impeachment in no uncertain terms.

"I'm a Republican, too," he said. "I voted for the man, but this list of crimes, pushing people around, all this stuff is too much."

"After this, he's no good," said Mitchell Daniels, who's with the R-Gees band and favors impeachment. "No one will trust him. Everyone laughs at him."

Three hundred miles straight west at the La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club—where, it is said, anyone criticizing the President a few months ago would

have had trouble finding a tennis partner, the atmosphere changed in recent days.

William Kellogg, the club owner, said, "Almost to a man, it seems, our members are either very unhappy or downright disgusted about the President and what he is doing to the office of the Presidency."

"I personally think he should resign before the situation deteriorates further," he said, adding that if Mr. Nixon did not quit, "I probably would be ready to support impeachment — his handling of the tapes was bad enough, but his firing of Prosecutor Cox was an arrogant disregard of his promise to the people."

Robert Knapp, coming off the green concrete tennis courts says, "Impeachment, no. That's reckless talk at this time and can only serve to further confuse and inflame an already bad situation."

But, said Mr. Knapp, the damage to the President's prestige and credibility "is probably irreparable."

At the Admiral Kidd Club, patronized by senior naval offi-

cers, active and retired, Mr. Nixon is defended, and there is talk of "a good leader acting quickly and firmly in dealing with trouble in the ranks."

"This talk about impeachment is damned rot," said Gordon Roberts, a retired captain. "All I have heard as regards the President is a lot of rhetoric and nothing to his discredit."

A retired commander, James Valenti, regretted the departure of Elliott L. Richardson as Attorney General and his deputy, William D. Ruckelshaus, but said, "They knew they could not defy the boss and remain."

"No system, civilian or military, can function in that manner," he added.

At the sixth-floor beauty salon at Henri Bendel's specialty store on West 57th Street near Fifth Avenue, the patrons opposed the President. "I think impeachment would be lovely, unless it would be a national disaster to have another catastrophic event," said Mrs. Jane Smith, who was waiting for a consultation.

But the equally well-groomed men on the 5:02 from Grand Central to Darien and points east were generally sympathetic to the President.

"If the judge finds nothing wrong, I hope they get off his back," said Jess W. Speidel 2d of Stamford, a planned parenthood worker. "He's got a country to run."

William Jones, a lawyer, said, "I think he's been methodically persecuted by the press."

But at the Hoarty Brothers bar in Boston, the words for the President were often harsh and unprintable. "Still," said Bill Copeland, a 53-year-old cook, "I don't know about that impeachment business. If you're in a plane and have only one

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Oppose Him

pilot, you don't shoot him through the head."

In the squash locker room of Boston's Harvard Club, the men had a variety of suggestions. Dr. Stephen Dretler said, "Out-right impeachment won't accomplish anything, but some kind of censure is in order. Perhaps a symbolic act, like impeaching him for the last day of his term."

At the Faculty Club at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., Morris Goodman, associate professor of linguistics, said, "Now that Nixon has agreed to give up the tapes, I don't necessarily believe at the moment there are clear grounds for impeachment. I don't know that he has violated any laws."

And Robert Wilkinson, an assistant professor, while criticizing the President over the resignations of Mr. Richardson and Mr. Ruckelshaus, said that if the tapes showed nothing, "half his troubles are over."

In Miami, at the O.K. Cafeteria on Flagler Street at 12th Avenue, in the center of the Cuban district, people who had backed the President expressed disappointment.

"I voted for Nixon," said Maria Zayas, a secretary, "and until yesterday I was a hundred percent behind the President. But now I'm not so sure."

The mechanics in the back shop of Ted Ewald's Chevrolet garage outside Detroit exemplified the split in opinions.

"Get rid of him, he's a crook," said Bill Finn. "Sure, they should impeach him. He's hiding everything."

"I think the whole thing is all politics from one end to another," said Raymond Sandoe, the write-up man. "Everybody has his finger in the pie. Nixon just got caught."