

Past Supporters Critical

Nixon Rejects New Demands He Quit

1st GOP

Senator to Issue Call

By David Broder
Washington Post

Washington

President Nixon, under a barrage of demands from past press and political supporters that he step aside in the interests of national unity, sent word through his press spokesman yesterday that he "has absolutely no intention of resigning."

Deputy Press Secretary Gerald Warren gave that response to the latest wave of resignation demands — from Time magazine, three major metropolitan newspapers and Senator Edward W. Brooke (Rep.-Mass.).

Warren said the President "feels he has much to do for this nation in foreign affairs and domestic policy, including clearing up the whole Watergate matter."

The chorus of criticism of Mr. Nixon's handling of the Watergate controversy will be joined by one of the leading Senate conservatives, Senator Peter Dominick (Rep.-Colo.), today. Aides said Dominick has prepared a speech for the Denver Bar Association that "goes beyond" what anyone from his wing of the party has said and includes "some pretty strong stuff."

In the first editorial in its 50-year history, Time magazine said: "The most important decision of Richard Nixon's remarkable career is before him: whether he will give up the presidency rather than do further damage

to the country."

MORAL

Noting that the editors of Time, Inc., had editorially endorsed Mr. Nixon in its defunct sister publication, Life, in 1960, 1968 and 1972, the editorial said, "It now seems likely that the President will have to give up his office" because "he has irredeemably lost his moral

Back Page Col. 1

From Page 1

authority, the confidence of most of the country, and therefore his ability to govern effectively."

Essentially, that same view was argued in Sunday editorials in the New York Times, the Detroit News and the Denver Post. The last two newspapers had backed Mr. Nixon for re-election last year.

Brooke, a progressive Republican who campaigned actively for Mr. Nixon in 1968 and 1972, became the first Senate Republican to advocate resignation publicly. He said on ABC-TV's "Issues and Answers" that the President has "lost the confidence of the country and I don't know of anything he could do to turn it around."

In Waterbury, Conn., Senator Lowell P. Weicker (Rep.-Conn.) said last night he will not call on President Nixon to resign and he doesn't think "and senator should do so."

Weicker, a member of the Senate Watergate committee, said he took that position because "there's always a possibility that impeachment proceedings could come" and senators would have to act as judges.

On "Meet the Press"

(NBC-TV), Senator Henry Jackson (Dem.-Wash.) endorsed last Thursday's plea from Senator Barry Goldwater (Rep.-Ariz.) that Mr. Nixon appear before the Senate Watergate Committee and "lay his cards on the table."

Otherwise, said Jackson, a key ally of the President on most defense and foreign policy questions, Mr. Nixon will face an "unchallengeable demand" for impeachment or mounting pressure for resignation.

A more cautious view, however, was expressed by Senator Howard Cannon (Dem.-Nev.) chairman of the Senate Rules Committee, which is holding hearings on the nomination of Representative Gerald Ford (Rep.-Mich.) to be vice president.

Cannon said on "Face the Nation" (CBS-TV) that he thought resignation neither likely nor necessary, because "there is still a chance for Mr. Nixon to re-establish himself . . . in a better light."

Nonetheless, Cannon repeated an earlier statement that Congress could "very well be confirming the next President, and not just a vice president," when it votes on Ford. Despite the fact that most of his mail is urging a delay on confirming Ford, Cannon said he expected to conclude hearings within two weeks and felt "the nomination should not be held hostage to anything else."

FORD

House Democratic leadership sources said that their Republican counterparts had been urging prompt action on the Ford nomination by the House Judiciary Committee, which has yet to schedule hearings.

House Republican leaders, they said, had privately indi-

cated increasing uneasiness over Mr. Nixon's actions and had stressed that once the succession question was settled by Ford's confirmation, they would feel freer themselves to address the question of the President's continued tenure.

In the face of all this, Washington Post correspondent Lou Cannon reported from Key Biscayne that the White House is trying to convince the public and Congress that Mr. Nixon is still capable of governing.

Cannon said a senior official, while conceding that the events of the past few weeks have been "disastrous" for the administration, contented that forceful action by Mr. Nixon on the "many important problems of the nation" would enable him to survive.

DECISIONS

Warren told reporters that Mr. Nixon spent most of his working hours on the long weekend vacation making fuel and energy policy decisions and keeping abreast of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's diplomatic efforts in the Middle East situation. Mr. Nixon is expected to return to Washington tonight.

There were also meetings in Key Biscayne between top presidential aides Alexander Haig Jr., Bryce Harlow and the lawyers handling Mr. Nixon's Watergate problems, Leonard Garment and J. Fred Buzhardt.

Warren gave no indication what the lawyers were discussing, but Goldwater told reporters in Wichita, Kan., that he expected a "startling development" in the continuing court hearings on two missing White House tapes of presidential discussions with Watergate figures.

Goldwater did not elaborate and could not be located for further comment.

SERVICE

In its resignation editorial, the New York Times said "The one last great service that Mr. Nixon can now perform for his country is to resign."

"As long as he clings to office," the Times said, "He keeps the Presidency swamped in a sea of scandal and the American public in a morass of concern and confusion."