

WATERGATE

One of eight congressmen now favor impeachment

United Press International

WASHINGTON — One in eight congressmen now is ready to vote to impeach President Nixon and almost twice as many would like to see him resign.

But those in the House who have already reached the decision that Nixon must leave office are still a small minority.

A United Press International survey shows more House members currently oppose impeachment or resignation than favor Nixon's removal from office.

But the largest number, by far, are undecided on whether Nixon should be impeached and feel the question of resignation is the President's to answer, not theirs.

UPI reached 402 of the 431 (there are four vacancies) House members or top aides allowed to speak for them. All participated in the survey on impeachment and 398 replied on the issue of resignation.

The survey showed 55 favor Nixon's impeachment; 87 do not; 182 are undecided; and 74 declined to comment. Eighty-nine favor resignation; 139 do not; 48 are undecided; and 126 declined comment.

Almost all who favor impeachment and most who want Nixon to resign are Democrats. But the responses crossed geographical lines with similar answers from all sections of the country.

Those willing to state their views were criticized by Rep. John E. Hunt Jr. (R-N.J.).

"Any congressman who expresses himself either against impeachment or for impeachment until all the information has been produced before the Judiciary Committee should be dis-

qualified from voting on impeachment on the floor," Hunt said.

Many who were undecided or who did not want to comment sided with Hunt, but without criticizing their more outspoken colleagues.

Asked his feeling about impeachment, Rep. James M. Hanley (D-N.Y.) said, "Who the hell ever heard of a grand jury (deciding) before all the evidence is in" and Rep. Hamilton Fish Jr. (R-N.Y.) added "It would be inappropriate until the investigation is completed to prejudge the evidence. . . I see myself as a grand juror."

"I subscribe to the thinking of one of Drinan's constituents (Rep. Robert F. Drinan (D-Mass.), a priest) who said 'If you can't impeach the bastard, exorcise him.'" Rep. Bertram Podell (D-N.Y.), said.

Others are insistent that Nixon should go through the impeachment process and not resign.

"No, I don't think he should resign," Rep. Edward R. Roybal, Los Angeles

Democrat said. "I think he should face his peers and be tried by them."

Rep. Ron Dellums, a Berkeley Democrat, added: "I prefer impeachment because more facts will come out. If the President simply resigns, there would be no guarantee all the facts would come out."

The greatest number, however, felt Nixon's resignation is none of their busi-

ness.

Rep. John Rousselot, San Marino Republican, said: "I don't think that's my decision to make — that's his decision."

Of the 87 House members who said Nixon should not be impeached, almost all said there is no evidence to warrant such a move.

The large undecided bloc wants to look at the evidence and determine if it fits the constitutional definition