

Subpoena Action Is Crucial

By David Murray
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If President Nixon ignores a House Judiciary Committee subpoena to turn over tapes and other materials, at least 30 of 38 committee members would now vote to recommend his impeachment, a Chicago Sun-Times congressional survey reveals.

Indeed, the survey showed, Mr. Nixon can count on only two or three sure votes on the committee, which is made up of 21 Democrats and 17 Republicans.

Since the outset of impeachment proceedings, the Sun-Times Washington bureau has conducted periodic soundings of Capitol Hill sentiment for and against impeachment. These surveys are based on exhaustive interviews with members of Congress, senators and staff aides—more

than a dozen in number—who were chosen because of their past reliability and because of their closeness to developments in Congress.

The survey in the wake of the issuance a week ago Thursday of the subpoena for materials relating to some 42 presidential conversations on the White House Watergate cover-up also showed that if such a lopsided margin persists among committee members, Mr. Nixon would be in severe danger of impeachment by the full House by a margin of nearly two to one.

On the committee, Mr. Nixon can count at this time on only two sure Republican votes—those of Rep. Edward Hutchinson of Michigan, the committee's ranking GOP member, and Rep. Delbert L. Latta of Ohio, who was placed

on the committee after the impeachment inquiry began because of his support of the President.

All 21 Democrats are reported ready to recommend impeachment if the materials are not produced.

All members of the committee are lawyers.

The committee subpoena served on the White House last Thursday was voted by 33 to 29. Hutchinson, Lott and Wiggins were opposed and three others were absent.

Over the weekend, the White House encouraged reporters to write dispatches which said that the President would not comply with the subpoena, returnable next Thursday, but would instead give the committee an edited transcript of the tapes the committee demanded.