

Pressure for Resignation

Washington

Ominous signs of spreading defection within his own Republican party arose on Capitol Hill yesterday as pressure for President Nixon's resignation or impeachment mounted in remorseless measure.

Two top House Republican figures, minority leader John Rhodes of Arizona and Republican conference chairman John Anderson of Illinois publicly suggested that Mr. Nixon consider resigning.

Rhodes, citing editorial demands for resignation or impeachment in newspapers once strongly partisan toward the President, said Mr. Nixon should consider leaving the White House "when you have responsible people and institutions reading the transcripts and changing their views."

The editorial calls for the President's removal from office came from such staunch former Nixon supporters as the Chicago Tribune, the Omaha World-Herald and William Randolph Hearst Jr., editor-in-chief of the Hearst newspapers.

Anderson, claiming that the President damaged himself "irreparably" by releasing the Watergate transcripts, said he would welcome the President's resignation. He asserted that a "consensus" for resignation is emerging in the Republican party —

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both within the House and at large.

"The transcripts make it quite clear he was deeply involved in Watergate on the 13th of March," he said. "Given the sentiment I have detected on the floor of the House, if I had to predict, I would predict he would be impeached."

Rhodes was only slightly less forthright. The President's resignation, he said, "would probably be beneficial" to the Republicans but he added that he was not recommending that course now.

Anderson contended that the edited transcripts show the President to be "totally lacking in moral sensibility" and that on the basis of the March 21 transcript "there is a prima facie case for obstruction of justice."

In the White House, meanwhile, the President's new counsel, Dean Burch, said the adverse reactions on Capitol Hill are not viewed as having reached "flood-tide proportions."

Burch, in dissenting from yesterday's new criticism and an earlier salvo from Senate minority leader Hugh Scott (Rep-Pa.), said "No one has talked about the question of whether he (the President) has committed an impeachable offense." The emphasis, he said, has been on the moral tone of the Oval Office conversations as revealed in the edited transcripts.



UPI Telephoto

JOHN ANDERSON He'd welcome resignation

"I respectfully suggest that the issue here is impeachment," Burch insisted. "The President is not running for president of the senior class."

Scott had decried the revelations of the edited transcripts as a "shabby, disgusting, immoral performance."

Little enthusiasm for the President could be detected yesterday at a meeting of the Business Council, one of Mr. Nixon's most influential constituencies, in Hot Springs, Va.

But no member of the council, made up of chairmen and presidents of the nation's 125 largest corporations, expressed a desire that President Nixon resign.

G. William Miller, presi-

dent of Textron, told Washington Post reporter Peter Milius that in the aftermath of the Watergate transcripts "it looks very bad for him at present." But Miller said he does not feel the President should resign, but should be removed only through constitutional procedures.

The Archbishop of Los Angeles, Timothy Cardinal Manning, said of the Watergate scandal that "I'm worried about the country. Very worried . . . the great tragedy of it is the raising of the 'great lie,' that it's all right to do it, but 'don't get caught.'" He spoke during a meeting of Western State Roman Catholic bishops in Los Angeles.

More old friends of the administration condemned yesterday the tape-recorded history of the White House deliberations on Watergate — the edited transcript Mr. Nixon gave the Congress and the public ten days ago.

Charles W. Yost, who was ambassador to the United Nations from 1969 to 1971, said in San Diego that the President's resignation is "the quickest way out of the country's agony." Foreign nations "don't know where they stand" with the United States, he said.

Senator Marlow W. Cook, a Republican moderate from Kentucky, said last night that President Nixon must seriously consider resigning in view of the "moral turpitude" revealed in his transcripts.

Washington Post