

NIXON LOSES MORE BACKING; RUMORS THAT HE'LL RESIGN SWEEP CAPITAL, ARE DENIED

SCHWEICKER PLEA

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Senator 3d in G.O.P. to
Make Demand—'Deep
Trouble' Is Noted
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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 10—
President Nixon's Republican
support continued to deteriorate
today in a capital rife with
rumor of resignation and absorbed
by doubts about the President's
chances of riding out the
Watergate crisis.

Old friends and allies, as well
as long-time opponents, were
abandoning Mr. Nixon's defense.
Some House Republicans were
looking for means of concerting
their voices into a formal appeal
that the President step down,
or temporarily step aside. Within
his own party, predictions grew
more confident that if Mr. Nixon
stayed in office, he would be
impeached.

At the Capitol, full of members
of Congress who normally leave
Washington before the weekend,
Republicans confirmed a marked
shift of sentiment against the
President—a shift that was
reflected and encouraged by
the suggestion yesterday by
Representative John J. Rhodes,
the House Republican leader,
that Mr. Nixon think again
about resigning.

Senator Richard S. Schweiker
of Pennsylvania, a liberal who
has frequently disagreed with
the Nixon Administration on
policy matters, became the third
Republican Senator to urge the
President to resign. He was
preceded by Senator Edward W.
Brooke of Massachusetts, a
liberal, and Senator James L.
Buckley of New York, a conservative.

Support Disappearing

"I am compelled to speak
out," said Mr. Schweiker, a
candidate for re-election this
year. "I cannot remain silent
in the face of the now obvious moral

corrosion destroying and debasing
the Presidency."

Other Republican Senators
stopped short of explicit suggestions
that Mr. Nixon step down. Senator
Milton R. Young of North Dakota
said today: "He's getting in deeper
trouble all the time. It's a question
of whether he can continue as
President."

"It would be a whole lot easier
for members of Congress and
myself," said Mr. Young, also
running for re-election, "if he
used the 25th Amendment and
stepped aside until this thing is
cleared up."

The Amendment Senator Young
referred to was ratified in 1967
and provides that the Vice
President can assume acting
executive authority if he and
the Cabinet persuade Congress
that the President is "unable
to discharge the powers and
duties of his office."

Outspoken support for the
President has virtually disappeared.
"I doubt if there is

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anyone in the Senate who'd
urge him to stay," said Senator
Young. "There wouldn't be
over five who you'd call hard-
core supporters."

"There's a general collapsing
of any support the President
might have had," said Representative
Charles W. Whalen Jr.,
Republican of Ohio.

Senator Marlow W. Cook of
Kentucky, a Republican candidate
for a second term this year,
commented last night that
Mr. Nixon "must realistically
contemplate" resigning because
"the President has irretrievably
lost any claim to the confidence
of the American people."

But as more Republicans
moved to record their dismay
at the White House transcripts
of Presidential conversations on
Watergate, the party was clearly
uncertain about how to
impress its concern on Mr. Nixon.

Ironically, it was the President's
relaxed and confident manner
on Wednesday morning at the
swearing-in of William E. Simon,
the new Secretary of the Treasury,
that prompted one group of
House Republicans to consider form-

ing a delegation of protest to
the White House.

When the so-called Wednesday
Group—about a score of House
Republicans, liberals and some
conservatives who consider
themselves "thoughtful"—
gathered later that day, several
members remarked, in effect,
that "the White House is in a
dream world, this is just intolerable,
he's just got to go," according
to Mr. Whalen, a leader of the
Wednesday Group.

Protest Plan Shelved

The group expressed its feeling
to Mr. Rhodes and may have
stimulated his comments on
resignation. But the idea of
sending a delegation of Republicans
to the White House, with a
direct plea for resignation,
has apparently been shelved.

Representative John B. Anderson
of Illinois, a liberal Republican
who said yesterday that Mr. Nixon
had been "deeply involved" in
the Watergate cover-up on at
least one day in 1973 and
predicted that he would be
impeached if he did not resign,
said today that House members
would not petition the President
as long as he held to a "hard
line" against resignation—as
White House spokesmen continued
to do today.

"Obviously he's got the message,"
Mr. Anderson said. "No matter
how isolated he is, he's got to
be aware of the volcanic winds
blowing through the Capitol
today."

He added: "As I view the
House of Representatives, particularly
on the Republican side of the
aisle, there has just been a
massive hemorrhaging of support
for Nixon."

Here and among party leaders
in the states, Republicans were
saying that Senator Barry
Goldwater of Arizona—the
archangel of the conservative
movement—as one House member
called him—is the only party
leader whose endorsement of
resignation would make a
critical difference with Mr.
Nixon.

In Texas, for example, Polly
Sowell, the vice chairman of
the Republican party, commented
that party workers are "very
confused. They're waiting for
a signal. If Goldwater asks
for the President's resignation,
every Republican in Texas
would believe that would be
the right thing to do."

Senator Goldwater told the
Navy midshipmen at Annapolis,
Md., last Tuesday evening that
if the House voted a bill of im-

peachment, Mr. Nixon would
resign "rather than let the
country be dragged through
two or three months of terror"
in a Senate trial.

But he said in the same
appearance, "I don't think he
should resign," and he has
not commented on the subject
since then. He could not be
reached today.

Other Republican leaders,
including Senators George D.
Aiken of Vermont and John G.
Tower of Texas, continued
today to argue that the
impeachment process must be
allowed to run its course.

Clarke Reed, the influential
chairman of the Republican
party in Mississippi, said today,
"The only thing [President
Nixon] could do to make me
mad would be to resign. It
would be a cop-out and a very
bad precedent."

"As a traditionalist and a
believer in the stable course,
I'd rather see [impeachment
proceedings] go ahead. Even if
it's on TV, and even if it means
a Democratic 'veto-proof'
Congress in the fall, there are
times when you have to put
the republic ahead of the
Republican party," Mr. Reed
said.

Among House Republicans,
however—all of whom would
face re-election this year,
and most of whom are torn
between loyalty to the head
of their party and the anti-
Nixon sentiment of their
constituents—

there was talk today that
the safest way out would be
a consolidated vote for
impeachment.

Everyone worries about the
20 to 30 per cent support for
Mr. Nixon that the polls report,
one Mid-Western Representative
said today. "Well, one way
to take care of that is to
have an overwhelming
Republican vote against the
President. The liberals can
point to conservatives who
voted for impeachment; the
conservatives can say, 'So
did the liberals.'"

The White House, steadfastly
denying even a chance of
resignation, issued Mrs. Nixon's
view that the President will
stick to his job.

"Mrs. Nixon is a loyal person
herself and she thinks it's
time to rally," said her
spokesman, Helen Smith. The
President's wife "can stand
these things because she
feels she knows the truth,"
Mrs. Smith said, "but she
can't understand the
Republican leadership. She
believes strongly in loyalty."

Gerald L. Warren, the deputy
White House press secretary,
scorned Senator Schweiker's
call for resignation today as
the expression of an old
adversary. "I really don't
detect any shift in the
Senator's position," Mr.
Warren said.

Senator Schweiker has
differed sharply with the
Administration on its
Vietnam policies, its
judicial appointments
and a variety of legislative
matters.

The Senator has the support
of organized labor—a
rarity for Republicans—in
his re-election campaign.
And organized labor,
notably the American
Federation of Labor and
Congress of Industrial
Organizations, has
lobbied actively for
Mr. Nixon's impeachment.



Associated Press

Senator Richard S. Schweiker, Pennsylvania Republican, discussing President Nixon yesterday in Washington.