

Black Leaders Hit Nixon

Washington

One member of the House Judiciary Committee said yesterday he believes President Nixon committed indictable offenses and another said proof of "gross abuses of power" would suffice for impeachment.

A third congressman, who is not on the judiciary panel, also accused Mr. Nixon of impeachable conduct during a joint television interview.

The three, all black, also condemned Mr. Nixon for alleged white racist bigotry and indifference toward the plight of blacks.

Representatives Charles Rangel (Dem-N.Y.) and Barbara Jordan (Dem-Tex.) — both members of the panel investigating possible impeachment of Mr. Nixon — and Andrew Young (Dem-Ga.) discussed the impact of Watergate upon black Americans.

They were interviewed on ABC's "Issues and Answers."

At one point, Young said poor blacks equated Watergate with household economic problems such as rising milk prices and an interviewer challenged him on

whether a President could be impeached for price increases.

"I'm not speaking as a member of the Judiciary Committee, but when he sits

in the room on a certain day and where there is record of his conversing with certain dairymen and when they receive a \$25,000 (campaign) contribution with a promise of \$2 million to come, and then a few weeks later the (milk) prices go up, as far as I'm concerned, that's an impeachable offense."

Young referred to charges that Mr. Nixon approved an increase in milk price supports in 1971 in return for campaign money, a charge that has prompted the committee to ask Mr. Nixon for more tape recordings on the milk issue. Rangel immediately injected his view.

"As a lawyer," he said, "we have more to deal with than just that, but I think in what Andy (Young) is saying, when the President indicated in the public (tape) transcripts that he could get a million dollars, that would be no problem, I think whether you're a lawyer or a non-lawyer you know that you have to sell a piece of government to get that million dollars."

Rangel referred to Mr. Nixon's March 21, 1973, conversation with John Dean on

the subject of hush money for Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt. Mr. Nixon says the transcript proves he opposed the hush money.

Jordan said, "We have no evidence on the milk case at all at this point." But when she was asked later for her definition of what constitutes an impeachable offense, she rejected Mr. Nixon's contention that indictable crime must be proved.

"I do not feel an impeachable offense has to be an indictable offense . . .," she said. "An impeachable offense can lie for gross abuses of power by a public official and gross neglect of duty."

United Press