

Brock Says Watergate Curbs Funds

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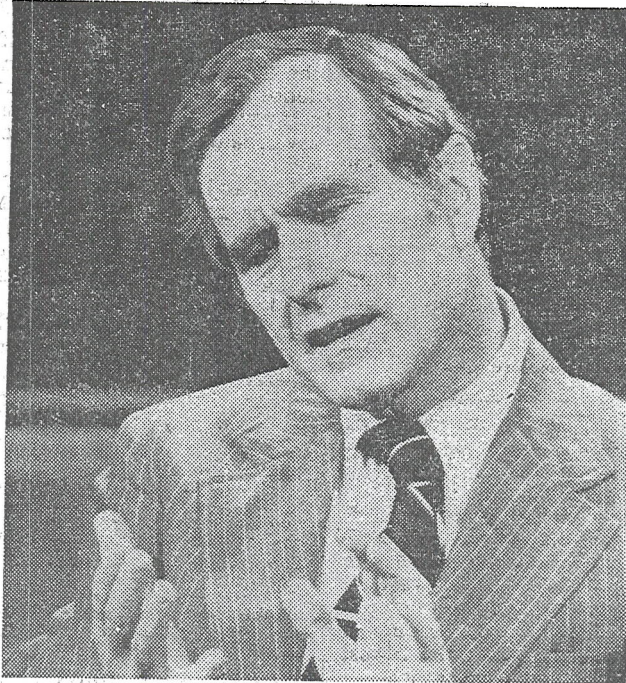
Sen. William E. Brock (R-Tenn.), chairman of the Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee, said yesterday he is having great difficulty raising funds for GOP senatorial campaigns because of the lingering cloud of Watergate.

Brock, who is responsible for raising money for Republican candidates for the Senate this year, said: "I am having a great deal of trouble. Watergate has done us a considerable amount of harm. There is no question about that, and you can't hide from it. It is there."

While contributions in smaller amounts are increasing, he said, "we have lost most of our large contributors."

George Bush, chairman of the Republican National Committee, also acknowledged that there are "mixed reviews" on contributions to individual Republican congressional campaigns. "Some are getting adequate financing, and frankly some of them are not," he said.

But Bush said contributions to the national committee are running about 20 per cent ahead of last year and that "85



United Press International

Republican Chairman Bush says some candidates are adequately financed, and "frankly some of them are not."

per cent of them are donations between zero and \$100, averaging a little less than \$20 now."

In a related Watergate de-

velopment yesterday, House Majority Leader Thomas P. O'Neill (D-Mass.) estimated that the House would vote by the last week of July on whether to impeach President Nixon. The prediction came in an interview in U.S. News & World Report.

O'Neill declined to predict how the House would vote. But House Minority Leader John J. Rhodes (R-Ariz.) said in a companion interview that he guessed that the Judiciary Committee would recommend impeachment and that, in the full House, "the situation... is very close."

Meanwhile, the Huntington, W. Va., Herald-Advertiser joined a growing list of newspapers supporting impeachment as the "only way" the nation can resolve the Watergate affair. Having supported the President's 1972 re-election bid, the paper said, it was

"not easy to join those calling on the House to vote the President's impeachment."

"Nevertheless, the President must now be called to account. Impeachment seems to us the only way to bring to an end this sad chapter of American history," the newspaper said in a Sunday editorial.

The Albuquerque Journal also called for impeachment, saying "we have been shocked by the immoral, squalid White House atmosphere in the President's transcripts..."

Two members of the House Judiciary Committee agreed yesterday that the panel's impeachment hearings should be opened to the public, provided that means were found for guarding against release of prejudicial pre-trial publicity or defaming statements.

Rep. Wayne Owens (D-Utah) and William S. Cohen (R-Maine) said the committee should take steps to maintain the secrecy of a federal grand jury report to prevent prejudice against those who will stand trial in the Watergate affair. But Owens said only about 10 per cent of the committee's proceedings would have to be closed.

Both men appeared on the television panel show "Face the Nation" (CBS, WTOP).

Cohen said it was "hypocritical" of the White House to complain about leaks "when the Judiciary Committee 'when there appears to be some selective editing' of the controversial White House transcripts."

Appearing on "Issues and Answers" (ABC, WMAL), GOP chairman Bush conceded that Watergate contributed to Democratic victories in four special congressional elections this year. But this November, he said, "it's not going to be enough to hammer away at Watergate and be elected."