

A Formal Call to Impeach

Washington

Representative Lawrence J. Hogan of Maryland yesterday became the first Republican on the House Judiciary Committee to announce that he will vote to recommend President Nixon's impeachment.

"After having read and re-read, sifted and tested the mass of information which came before us, I have come to the conclusion that Richard M. Nixon has, beyond a reasonable doubt, committed impeachable offenses which, in my judgment, are of such sufficient magnitude that he should be removed from office," Hogan declared in a 15-minute statement.

A short while later, a Democrat, Joshua Eilberg of Pennsylvania joined him, saying, "I don't know which articles I am going to vote for but I am prepared to vote for an article of impeachment."

Hogan, a conservative who has rarely opposed the President on policy, is running for the Republican nomination for governor of Maryland.

His statement stunned some of his colleagues, and top officials at the White House were said to be acutely concerned.

Dean Burch, a counselor to President Nixon on political matters, met with the President's chief of staff, Alexander M. Haig Jr., shortly after Hogan's announcement.

Burch then called a news conference at which he said that Hogan had been "unfair" and had been unduly influenced by the political needs of his campaign for governor.

Hogan, however, said that he thinks his vote will have a "disastrous effect" on his campaign and might end his political career.

House members what his announcement would entail.

He had already bought time for last night on several television stations in Maryland and the District of Columbia so that he could read his statement in impeachment.

Yesterday afternoon, with his wife at his side, he read it to scores of reporters and cameramen:

"I wish with all my heart that I could say to you now that the President of the United States is innocent of wrongdoing, that he has not committed an impeachable offense, but I cannot say that," Hogan stated.

Meanwhile, House Republican Leader John J. Rhodes of Arizona told Senate Republicans at a closed session that the House impeachment situation is fluid at present. "I said last week was favor-

able, this week is less favorable and next week who knows?" Rhodes said he told the senators.

Of Hogan's action, Rhodes said, "Something like this is bound to be more harmful to the President than helpful."

Among other comments from congressmen, Representative John B. Anderson (Rep.-Ill.) said Hogan's decision "is going to have some effect. The tide is going in this direction."

Rabbi Baruch Korff, head of the National Citizens Committee for Fairness to the President, made public a letter he sent to Hogan saying that Hogan once was an admirable young politician.

"And now you have joined the wolf pack, running with their frenzy and echoing their howls against the President," Korff said.

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