



By Harry Naltchayan—The Washington Post

Rep. Lawrence J. Hogan and wife at press conference.

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Hogan Will Vote For Impeachment

By Edward Walsh and Stephen Green

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Rep. Lawrence J. Hogan of Maryland became the first Republican member of the House Judiciary Committee yesterday to declare he will vote for President Nixon's impeachment because, Hogan said, "Richard M. Nixon has, beyond a reasonable doubt, committed impeachable offenses."

Hogan, who is running for governor of Maryland, accused the President of approving blackmail payments, of encouraging perjury and of actively participating in "an extended and extensive conspiracy to obstruct justice." He said he is convinced Mr. Nixon should be removed from office to prevent further weakening of the presidency.

Hogan's decision was a severe blow to the President's hopes of avoiding impeachment by the full House and a trial by the Senate. A frequent defender of the President who has often sided with Mr. Nixon in procedural disputes in the committee, Hogan had been counted on as an anti-impeachment vote by Mr. Nixon's supporters.

Hogan's gubernatorial candidacy was immediately cited by the President's defenders as motivating his strongly worded denunciation of Mr. Nixon. White House counselor Dean Burch charged that Hogan's "ambition to be governor of Maryland . . . weighed heavily" on him and that he acted "from what he views as his political interest."

Although Hogan told a press conference yesterday that his vote for impeachment could cost him the governorship, most Maryland political figures, both Republicans and Democrats, agreed in interviews that in the long run Hogan's candidacy is likely to be damaged less than had he decided to vote against impeachment.

Hogan purchased 15-minute time slots on television stations in Washington, Baltimore, Hagerstown and Salisbury to explain his impeachment vote to Maryland voters last night.

"I want with all my heart to be able to say to you now

See HOGAN, 10, Col. 2

Hogan to Ask Impeachment

HOGAN, From A1

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 declared in the broadcast and at the news conference.

"The evidence convinces me that my President has lied repeatedly, deceiving public officials and the American people," Hogan said. "He has withheld information necessary for our system of justice to work. Instead of cooperating with prosecutors and investigators, as he said publicly, he concealed and covered up evidence and coached witnesses so that their testimony would show things that really were not true.

"He tried to use the CIA to impede and thwart the investigation of Watergate by the FBI. He approved the payment of what he knew to be blackmail to buy the silence of an important Watergate witness. He praised and rewarded those whom he knew had committed perjury.

"He personally helped to orchestrate a scenario of events, facts and testimony to cover up wrongdoing in the Watergate scandal and to throw investigators and prosecutors off the track. He actively participated in an extended and extensive conspiracy to obstruct justice."

Hogan's charges against the President dealt exclusively with Mr. Nixon's alleged activities in connection with the Watergate cover-up. He said evidence relating to other allegations—for example, the bombing of Cambodia and the use of public funds to improve the President's private residences—were insufficient to warrant impeachment.

But Hogan also specifically rejected presidential lawyer James St. Clair's attempt to narrow the impeachment inquiry to the sole question of whether the President actively approved the payment of so-called "hush money" to convicted Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt.

St. Clair has argued repeatedly that none of the evidence submitted to the Judiciary Committee implicates the President in any way in the payment of "hush money" payments to Hunt on March 21, 1973.

"It's unimportant if he (the President) approved a

payment on March 21," Hogan said in response to a question. "He did not reject it. The fact that the payment was made means that he participated in the conspiracy."

Hogan predicted that "the Committee will vote out a resolution of impeachment." "I think there will be some Republican votes, at least five," he added.

Hogan also said that "if all the members of the House are as diligent in reading and studying the evidence as all the members of the Committee have been they will vote impeachment."

At a hastily called White House press conference shortly after Hogan's announcement, presidential counselor Burch said White House officials were disappointed by Hogan's decision but still do not expect the President to be impeached by the full House.

"We don't expect it will start a landslide or a rush to judgment," Burch said.

Aside from Burch, the strongest criticism of Hogan's decision, and the manner in which he announced it, came from Louise Gore, Maryland's Republican national committeewoman and Hogan's only opponent in the Sept. 10 Republican primary for governor.

Accusing Hogan of abandoning an "eminently fair position" of studying the impeachment evidence "to take one of greater political expediency," Miss Gore said:

"The spectacle of a so-called Republican congressman shouting to the world his accusations that our Republican President is a liar and should be removed from office shocks and horrifies the good people of our country."

Gov. Marvin Mandel, who is expected to win the Democratic primary for governor, had "no comment at all" on Hogan's announcement, according to Frank A. DeFilippo, Mandel's press secretary.

Hogan, whose bid for the governorship is backed by most Maryland Republican leaders, is favored to defeat Miss Gore in the primary election.

In interviews yesterday, state Republicans said Hogan's vote for impeachment would undoubtedly cost him pro-Nixon votes in the primary election, but probably not enough to give Miss Gore an upset victory.

Hogan's toughest political problem, according to this view, lies in the general election, where he is likely to face a powerful incumbent Democrat in a state where registered Democrats outnumber Republicans by more than 3 to 1.

In the general election, Hogan's pro-impeachment stance "probably helps him, when you figure he has to appeal to Democratic voters" said one to a Republican U.S. senator.

"Also, he's running on an anticorruption platform. It would have looked kind of weird if he voted against impeachment. It just wouldn't mesh."

The forcefulness of Hogan's denunciation of the President was particularly surprising in view of his previous stances on most political issues.

At 45, Hogan, an ex-FBI agent, is completing his third term from Maryland's Fifth Congressional District, which is comprised of northern and central Prince George's County. He is considered among the most conservative members of Congress and generally a supporter of Mr. Nixon's policies.

As Hogan read a prepared statement before a crowd of more than 100 reporters in the Rayburn House Office Building. His wife, Iona, sat at his left side, looking intently at him.

In response to questions, Hogan said he decided to announce his decision before the final Committee debate starts because, "I want to explain my view before it becomes lost in the shuffle."

He said that by today "every person on the Committee, so far as I'm concerned will have made up his mind." He conceded, however, that he might not have made his announcement before the Committee debate, if he were not running for governor.

Hogan said he began "tilting toward impeachment" after Mr. Nixon released on March 31 transcripts of White House tape recordings.

"The real body blow to my awareness was when the President released his tapes. I read things in there that shocked me," Hogan said.

It's "not possible to point to one phrase, one sentence or conversation" that convinced him to vote for impeachment, Hogan said.

"Many things can be drawn from inference and

it's perfectly proper that they can be drawn from inference," Hogan said.

Hogan also said he had not told other Committee members of his decision.

Rep. Charles E. Wiggins of California, a Republican Committee member who has defended the President, appeared surprised when told statement from a reporter of Hogan's announcement. He took a copy of Hogan's After quietly reading it for several minutes, he said, "I owe somebody a dollar."

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"I think the fact that he (Hogan) is running for governor of Maryland with a 3 to 1 Democratic majority has something to do with it," said Rep. Henry P. Smith III of New York, A Republican Committee member some think may end up voting for impeachment. Smith said he has not yet made up his mind on the issue.

"It's a little bit of a stitch for Larry," commented David W. Dennis (R-Ind.), who has defended Mr. Nixon on the Committee. "I don't think I'll come out with anything until the proper time," Dennis stated.

Rep. William L. Hungate of Missouri, a Democrat on the Committee said that Hogan's decision is "very much of a blow" to the President.

Hogan said that nobody from the White House ever has talked to him about impeachment. He said, however, that before the press conference he received "a number of calls" from two White House aides that he didn't return. He declined to identify the aides.

Assistant White House Press Secretary Gerald Warren said he didn't know who had been calling Hogan. He noted the wire services had moved news stories saying that Hogan was having a press conference to announce how he would vote. Warren also said the White House still maintains that the evidence before the committee doesn't warrant impeachment.