

REPUBLICAN CALLS FOR IMPEACHMENT

Rep. Hogan of Maryland, a Conservative, Stuns Some Colleagues in Inquiry

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WASHINGTON, July 23 — Representative Lawrence J. Hogan of Maryland became today the first Republican on the House Judiciary Committee to announce that he would 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," Mr. Hogan declared in a 15-minute statement.

Representative 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.

Burch Scores Stand

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

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

Mr. Hogan, however, said he thought that his position would have a "disastrous effect" on his campaign and might end his political career.

Mr. Hogan is favored to win the Republican nomination for Governor, but he is thought to be well behind the Democratic incumbent, Gov. Marvin Mandel.

In an effort to catch up, Mr. Hogan is campaigning on a platform of reform and is pledging to end the political corruption that has characterized Maryland government.

He has been faced with "intense pressure" from both sides on the impeachment issue, Mr. Hogan said. He reported that this morning, after word had spread that he planned to announce his position, he received a series of telephone calls from White House aides and a call from Vice President Ford.

Calls Not Returned

Mr. Hogan said that he did not return the calls from the White House and did not tell either Mr. Ford or other House members what his announcement would entail.

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

This afternoon, with his wife at his side, he read it to scores of reporters and cameramen who had crowded into a small hearing room on the second floor of the Rayburn House Office Building.

"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," Mr. Hogan stated. He continued:

"The evidence convinces me that my President has lied repeatedly, deceiving public officials and the American people. 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 C.I.A. to impede the investigation of Watergate by the F.B.I. He ap-

proved 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.

"To my mind, he is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt of having committed these impeachable offenses."

Effect Unclear

Many of Representative Hogan's words were precisely those used by John M. Doar, the Judiciary Committee's special counsel, in the rationale for impeachment that he gave to the committee last week.

It was difficult to tell today what the effect of Mr. Hogan's announcement would be on other Republicans.

Mr. Hogan said he believed that not only the committee but also the House would vote for impeachment. He predicted that at least four other Republicans on the committee would join him in voting against the President.

Representative M. Caldwell Butler of Virginia, one of the committee Republicans who is thought to be undecided on his impeachment vote, said that Mr. Hogan's statement might influence Republicans who were thinking about voting for impeachment but were "worried about being lonesome."

Other colleagues said that Mr. Hogan might sway some Republicans in the Maryland House delegation.

'Act of Courage'

Representative Tom Railsback of Illinois, a Republican who is thought to be still on the fence, said of Mr. Hogan, "He did what he thought was right. It was an act of courage, and it will certainly have an impact on the House floor."

The leader of the Presi-

dent's Republican supporters on the committee, Representative Charles E. Wiggins of California, said that he wanted "to take a cold shower" before making a comment on Mr. Hogan's announcement.

Mr. Hogan said that, from the beginning of the impeachment inquiry, he had searched for evidence that might exonerate the President.

He decided long ago, he said, that only serious criminal conduct would warrant impeachment and that the proof of that conduct should be "beyond a reasonable doubt."

These standards for defining an impeachable offense and for proving that offense are considerably more stringent than those applied by the committee's staff or its Democratic majority.

Issues Separated

Many of the allegations against the President — the bombing of Cambodia, the campaign contributions from milk producers, the President's relationship with the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation, the Government's expenditures at Mr. Nixon's residences and the impoundment of funds — did not meet his standards for impeachment, Mr. Hogan said.

But the evidence that the President had acted illegally in covering up the Watergate burglary was so compelling, Mr. Hogan said, that he had no choice but to vote for impeachment.