

# No Serious Damage Seen in

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Rep. Lawrence J. Hogan (R-Md.) apparently will not suffer serious longterm damage to his campaign to become governor of Maryland because of his call for the impeachment of Presi-

Moreover, according to this view, while Hogan's proimpeachment stance may not give him all that many Democratic votes in the Nov. 5 general election, it is probably the only politically

## Hogan Stand

### News Analysis

dent Nixon, according to leading Maryland politicians and members of Hogan's staff.

In interviews yesterday, political leaders of both parties in Maryland generally agreed that Hogan would undoubtedly suffer some Republican defections in the September primary because of his strong pro-impeachment stance, but in the long run may have strengthened his ability to then wage a campaign emphasizing alleged corruption in state government against Democratic Gov. Marvin Mandel.

"With a candidate for governor trying to project the image that Hogan is, it seems to me that he was almost precluded from not voting for impeachment," said state Sen. Steny H. Hoyer (D-Prince George's). "He had to."

As Hogan rested yesterday afternoon after a dizzying parade of local and national television appearances occasioned by his surprise announcement, his press aide, Del Malkie, said Hogan's aides were pleased by the initial voter reaction to his becoming the first Republican on the House Judiciary Committee to announce that he would vote for impeachment.

Hogan himself told a television interviewer yesterday that the majority of calls and letters to his office approved of his decision. Malkie said many callers praised Hogan "for having the guts to stand up and be counted."

Hogan and Malkie both also discounted one published report that Hogan was considering withdrawing from his race for governor because of adverse reaction to his call for Mr. Nixon's impeachment. Hogan said his campaign aides have urged him unanimously to stay in the race, and Malkie added that it was "very unlikely" that the Prince Georges County congressman would withdraw.

The consensus in state political circles was that Hogan has damaged himself among some Republicans, but not seriously enough to cost him the Sept. 10 primary election for governor against his only GOP opponent, Louise Gore.

tenable position for a gubernatorial hopeful who plans to emphasize alleged corruption in state government in his campaign.

If nothing else, Democratic and Republican politicians agreed, Hogan's harshly worded condemnation of the President will blunt any attempt by Democratic Gov. Marvin Mandel to tie Hogan to the Nixon administration and the Watergate scandal.

"It seems to me it takes away some of Mandel's ammunition," said one state Republican leader. "If he voted against impeachment, Marvin was going to hang the whole thing (Watergate) around his neck."

Hogan, accusing the President of encouraging blackmail, perjury and obstruction of justice, announced that he would vote for impeachment at a crowded, dramatic press conference on Capitol Hill Tuesday afternoon. The announcement was followed by Hogan's appearance on paid political programs on four widely scattered Maryland television stations Tuesday night.

By being the first Republican member of the House Judiciary Committee to announce he would vote for impeachment, Hogan assured himself of maximum

publicity and a badly needed boost in his name recognition among Maryland voters outside the Washington area.

He was front-page news throughout the state and nation yesterday, and he followed his announcement with a whirlwind of television program appearances—Martin Agronsky's "Evening Edition" on WETA, channel 26, on Tuesday evening, NBC's "Today" show yesterday morning, and the local "Panorama" program on WTTV, channel 5, yesterday afternoon.

But it was this very flurry of publicity—a plus for Hogan in attempting to become better known throughout Maryland—that many state political figures said held the most political danger for Hogan's gubernatorial aspirations.

For example, Republican State Sen. Jervis S. Finney, who spent yesterday campaigning door-to-door in his bid to become county executive of Baltimore County, said he encountered "some adverse reaction" to the timing of Hogan's announcement, which came a day before the Judiciary Committee began debating the impeachment issue.

"I guess it will be a net political deficit in the short

run in Baltimore County," Finney said. "The reason is the timing. It will be hard for him to get the credit for not having made a political decision. People are very suspicious of politicians' statements and it will be viewed skeptically in Baltimore County."

Finney, Hoyer and other state politicians said the key to the long-range political impact of Hogan's announcement was whether voters perceive it to be politically motivated.

"It is most important for him to get across the impression that his act is one of personal conscience," Finney said. "Then he would stand to gain politically."

In an interview yesterday, Hogan himself continued to insist that his call for impeachment would seriously damage his campaign for governor. He quoted U.S. Rep. Roger H. Zion (R-Ind.) as having told a group of Republican members of Congress Tuesday night that he (Zion) had already raised \$1,600 for Hogan's gubernatorial primary opponent, Louise Gore. Zion could not be reached for comment, and an aide said he had no immediate comment.

Hogan added, however, that "as more people become aware of the facts" he

may not suffer serious political damage.

Despite Hogan's prediction that he faces massive Republican defections because of his decision to vote for impeachment, few other Republicans agreed and many said Hogan can still probably count on a generally united party in a race against Mandel.

"I haven't detected any violent reaction against him," said Prince George's County Executive William W. Gullett, a Republican who often has feuded with Hogan.

"I don't think they (Hogan supporters) will jump off," Gullett added. "He has a very loyal following and he's very popular."

While Gov. Mandel had no comment on Hogan's announcement, it was clear

that his political strategists had hoped that Hogan would support the President, thus handing the governor a ready-made campaign issue.

There was also general agreement that, given the type of anti-corruption campaign that Hogan plans to wage against Mandel, his decision to vote for impeachment was the least politically damaging.

"A vote against (impeachment) hurts Hogan the most," said one Mandel political strategist shortly before Hogan's announcement. "The sentiment in Maryland is for impeachment. It's simple mathematics."

"How can he condone corruption in Washington and then turn around and attack it in Maryland?"





House Judiciary Committee members confer Tuesday on the impact of Rep. Lawrence J. Hogan's stated intent to vote to impeach.

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