

Hogan Urging Delay to Hear 64 New Tapes

By Edward Walsh
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Rep. Lawrence J. Hogan (R-Md.), already committed to voting for President Nixon's impeachment, suggested yesterday that the impeachment process be delayed "a reasonable time" to see if additional White House tape recordings will become available to the House Judiciary Committee.

At a breakfast meeting with reporters in Washington, Hogan said that the kind of convincing proof of presidential misconduct that some Republicans say they are looking for may be contained in the 64 tapes that the Supreme Court has ordered turned over to Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski.

He said he would prefer to see the impeachment vote near unanimous, rather than divided, and that even should the additional tapes exonerate the President, "I'd rather know now than put the country through the ordeal of impeachment."

Hogan's comments appeared to be a reversal of an earlier position. He told a television interviewer Wednesday that despite the Supreme Court's unanimous order that the President surrender the tapes to Jaworski he would not favor a delay in the impeachment proceeding.

As the Judiciary Committee began its debate of the impeachment issue Wednesday night, several Republican supporters of the President urged a delay while the tapes were sought.

Hogan, a member of the Judiciary Committee, made his formal call for impeachment before the committee yesterday.

In a wide ranging discussion with national and local reporters of his own decision to vote for impeachment, and its impact on his campaign for the governorship of Maryland, Hogan also:

- Said that he found the President's use of government agencies such as the IRS for political purposes to be "nauseating," but that he has not definitely decided to vote for an article of impeachment charging Mr. Nixon with abuse of power.

- Because of the Supreme Court decision, said that the President "for the first time has to seriously look at whether he should resign." Hogan, who has accused the President of committing "indictable" offenses, said it would be "presumptuous" of him to call for Mr. Nixon's

resignation, but added that a resignation now "would save a lot of agony to the President."

- Conceded that it was "stupid" for him to have retained a detective agency, that includes a former political spy for the Nixon campaign organization, as part of his own investigation of Democratic Gov. Marvin Mandel.

- Contrary to his initial assessment of the political im-

fact of his call for the President's impeachment, said he now believes that his proimpeachment stance will not seriously damage his gubernatorial campaign.

In announcing Tuesday that he would vote for impeachment, Hogan centered his charges against the President solely on what he said was Mr. Nixon's obstruction of justice in the Watergate probe—one of the broad articles of impeachment being considered by the Judiciary Committee. Until yesterday, he had not commented on a second impeachment article charging the President with abuse of power.

Asked about his retention of a detective agency whose employees include a former Nixon spy, Hogan said:

"In retrospect, it was a stupid thing to do. I should have realized that in politics you not only have to avoid evil, but the appearance of evil. That was the blunder I made."

One of the employees of the agency, Marlborough Investigators of Forestville, is John R. Buckley. Buckley, whose code name during the 1972 presidential campaign was "Fat Jack," admitted to the Senate Watergate Committee that he secretly intercepted and copied documents from Sen. Edmund S. Muskie's presidential campaign in his role as a Nixon political operative.

Del Malkie, Hogan's press aide, said later yesterday that Buckley will have no part in Hogan's gubernatorial campaign, although that did not preclude the continued use of the detective agency to investigate Mandel.

The U.S. Attorney's office in Baltimore currently is investigating two of Mandel's close political associates. Hogan repeatedly has said that corruption will be a major issue in the gubernatorial campaign.

Hogan made his remarks at a breakfast hosted by Godfrey Sperling, of The Christian Science Monitor. Past Sperling breakfasts generally have included prominent national figures—vice presidents, cabinet officers, Congressional leaders. Hogan's presence yesterday was indicative of the national exposure Hogan received as the first Republican on the Judiciary Committee to come out for impeachment.

Hogan yesterday almost totally reversed his initial view of the impact of his impeachment vote on his campaign for governor. When he made the announcement Tuesday, he portrayed it as an act that would seriously damage him in Maryland, later telling one reporter he might have to consider withdrawing from the race for governor because of adverse voter reaction.

Yesterday, Hogan said his withdrawal from the race was unlikely.