

Impeach Voters 'Just Doing Job'

Washington

Early indications are that members of the House Judiciary Committee have little to fear from their home districts, regardless of which side they took in the 27 to 11 recommendation to impeach President Nixon for obstruction of justice in the Watergate coverup.

A UPI sampling of opinion from party leaders and television-watching citizens across America indicated yesterday that even when constituents disagreed with their congressman's decision they felt "he was voting his conscience" or "just doing his job."

The vote was momentous in itself and foreshadows a time next month when 435, instead of only 38, House members must make that same crucial decision on whether to impeach Mr. Nixon and send him for trial before the Senate.

It is still possible for a backlash to develop from one side or the other against the committee members who ~~time next month when 435,~~ on Saturday cast their first vote on the issue.

But only one heated reaction was included in the polling:

Jesse Cooksey, chairman of the South Carolina Republican committee, said "I think the whole (Judiciary Committee) crowd should go to jail. This is the worst

thing that has ever happened to this country and they should be impeached, not the President."

Cooksey said Representative James R. Mann (Dem-S.C.), a committee member who voted for impeachment, "will be beaten as he did not vote the conscience of the Fourth District."

Mann had his defenders, too. Donald Fowler, chairman of the South Carolina Democratic party, called it "illogical and irrational to condemn members of the Judiciary Committee for carrying out their constitutionally imposed duty."

Arkansas is another state in which Mr. Nixon's popularity remains high, but leaders of both parties there lauded Democrat Ray Thornton, who voted for impeachment.

"He kept an open mind and waited until all the evidence was in," said Republican National Committeeman Odel Pollard. "I am not going to be critical of his position."

Governor Dale Bumpers, Democratic nominee for the Senate race this fall, called Thornton "a sincere and conscientious man in everything he undertakes," and David Pryor, Democratic nominee for governor, said it was "not a partisan nor a sectional vote."

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