

Froehlich's Impeach Stand Accepted

By Bradley Graham

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LUXEMBURG, Wis., July 28—The Dutch were dancing in the streets of this north-eastern Wisconsin village today, parading along Main Street for their annual polka festival. Rep. Harold V. Froehlich had planned to be here.

But Froehlich—the freshman congressman who Saturday cast an anguished Republican vote to impeach the President — remained in Washington, contemplating the rest of the case against Mr. Nixon.

At Saturday night parties and picnics today, the people of Wisconsin's Eighth District expressed surprise that the Froehlich they knew as a tough, tradition-minded state assembly speaker had in the end opted for impeachment. Yet, they figured, if that's how he saw the case, then there must be something to it.

In this congressional district, GOP roots run deep, extending far north to the woodlands and the resort towns, and south and west to the affluent farm lands.

The Fox River flows up the center and east through the district's cities of Green Bay and Appleton, serving a valley of paper mills and assorted industrial plants.

"There's not much flux and most of the people are natives," said Green Bay Mayor Tom Atkinson. Mr. Nixon got 61 per cent of the vote in 1972.

High interest rates and inflated prices, an urban renewal project, a bridge construction program, and debate over the burning of refuse have been the major concerns in Green Bay in recent months.

Most of the people here weren't following impeachment" said John Rose, president of the largest bank in Green Bay. "Lots of people in Wisconsin felt they were removed."

Removed that is, until the House Judiciary Committee sessions were televised and Froehlich, in his opening remarks, told the people back home: "I am deeply pained and troubled by some of the things I see."

The mail going to Froehlich's Washington office was split evenly for and against impeachment at the end of last week. But the President's supporters in this Wisconsin district appear to be wavering.

"They (the committee) are finally getting down to the nitty gritty," said Richard Shimek, a commander of the Appleton American Legion post. "The majority of us are still not sure what is happening; we're not sure what is the right thing to do. But it seems they've got something on the guy."

The Appleton Post-Crescent, which had yet to take an editorial stand on impeachment, decided Saturday, after Froehlich's vote, the time had come.

"Froehlich is conservative, thoughtful, and his vote is significant," said editor John Torinus. "We'll run

something Monday which will say something like, 'This is well and good. This is the constitutional process.'"

Support like that will be crucial to Froehlich in view of the tough campaign he faces this fall.

He squeezed past a priest named Robert Cornell by 3,800 votes (out of 202,000 cast) in 1972, and Cornell has been running ever since.

Cornell is a Green Bay favorite because both he and the city are Catholic, and because Froehlich, a Lutheran from Appleton, tried to direct contracts for a new university campus and broadcast stations away from Green Bay to Appleton during his 10 years as a state assemblyman.

Don Zuidmulder, the district attorney, who has been campaigning against Cornell for the Democratic nomination, also threatens Froehlich, for unlike Cornell who has announced he will not use impeachment as an issue, Zuidmulder has hit hard at Watergate and corruption in the Republican Party.

Anticipating another tight race, Froehlich has commissioned a professional film crew to tape several 30-second television spots. His theme is service to his constituents.

In recent months he has made frequent trips home, traveling across his district in a camper, attending special functions like Luxemburg's polka festival.

His aides stress his two active district offices and helping Wisconsin citizens cut through government red tape. His motto: "Putting it together for people."

Last week, for instance, he sponsored a federal procurement conference in Green Bay, which put government contractors in close

touch with area businessmen. Events such as this have won him key support.

"He's handling a difficult assignment very well," said Ed Feld, President of Green Bay's Chamber of Commerce. "And there are a lot of people in the business community here who feel quite as I do."

Whether impeachment becomes an issue forcing Froehlich to defend his vote remains to be seen. But one old friend and former law partner in Appleton explained that Froehlich made the only choice he could have.

"He's the man of tough moral principles," said County Judge Urban Van Susteren, a one-time campaign chief for the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy, another Appleton resident. "I don't mean he's Holy Harold. But there are certain things he just won't approve."