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SOVIET TV NOTES
IMPEACHMENT BID

Brief Statement Tells the
Public of Panel's Vote

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MOSCOW, July 28—The Soviet public was told tonight in a brief television statement that the machinery to impeach President Nixon had been set in motion by the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives.

A popular news program at 9 o'clock also showed Russians a glimpse of the committee and its chairman, Peter W. Rodino Jr., at work during the hearings.

More than 12 hours after the committee vote last night, Tass, the Soviet press agency, distributed a two-paragraph account of the action. But the Soviet authorities, clearly still reticent about reporting the embarrassing news, phrased the dispatch to emphasize Mr. Nixon's confidence that he would be cleared by the full House.

The dispatch was too late for today's issue of Pravda, the Communist party newspaper. But in its customary review of the week's events today, Pravda avoided any reference, even indirect, to proceedings against Mr. Nixon.

Mr. Nixon has been portrayed in the Soviet Union as a pillar of détente. As such, he has been spared practically all direct criticism. The Government here has been distressed that the President, who has been described as a trustworthy and friendly acquaintance of Soviet leaders, should now face disgrace in his own country.

The full Tass report, headed, "Statement by the White House," was as follows:

"The White House has issued a statement in connection with the fact that the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives by a majority vote (21 Democrats and six Republicans) endorsed the first item of a resolution recommending the House of Representatives to decide on impeachment. This item lays claims to the President in view of the inves-

tigation of the so-called Watergate affair.

"According to a White House spokesman, President Richard Nixon is confident that the House of Representatives, where the Judiciary Committee's recommendation will be referred, will not decide on impeachment, for there is no ground for that."

On Friday, Pravda published a three-paragraph account of the Supreme Court ruling that Mr. Nixon would have to surrender more tape recordings, and, in the last paragraph, broke a nine-month silence in the Soviet press on the Watergate scandal and its consequences. The article quoted Vice President Ford as saying that the President's compliance with the Supreme Court order would enhance his public support in the face of Congressional moves to remove him from office.

The official Communist party line, disclosed when Soviet officials are asked by foreigners about the problem, is that the forces attempting to remove Mr. Nixon from office are doing so to sabotage the work he has done toward détente.

It was speculated that the changing tone might be intended to prepare the Soviet public for the shock that impeachment proceedings may produce.

Worldwide Reaction Muted

LONDON, July 28 (Reuters)—Worldwide reaction to the House Judiciary Committee impeachment vote was initially muted today.

Government after Government declined to comment on the first Congressional step to remove President Nixon, with some arguing, like sources in the Japanese Foreign Ministry, that impeachment was an internal American consideration.

In Bonn, the West German Government also said the vote was strictly an internal affair.

Privately, however, high-placed officials said the Socialist Government of Helmut Schmidt, barely three months in office, had simply not had enough time to consider the implications of possible impeachment.