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Hogan Asks GOP House Col

By Edward Walsh
Washington Post Staff Writer

In a strongly worded letter to his 186 Republican colleagues in the House, Rep. Lawrence J. Hogan of Maryland has called the Watergate scandal "the shame of the Republican Party" and told Republicans they should "welcome and demand" the ascension of Vice President Gerald R. Ford to the presidency.

The letter, which was largely a defense of Hogan's votes on the House Judiciary Committee to impeach President Nixon, said that the President "bears most of the responsibility" for the fact that "confidence in politicians—especially Republican politicians—is at an all-time low ebb."

Hogan, who is running for governor of Maryland, was the only Republican member of the Judiciary Committee to vote for all three of the articles of impeach-

ment approved by the committee.

Hogan's votes clearly alienated hard core Nixon supporters both in Maryland and throughout the country. In the letter to Republican members of Congress, which was delivered yesterday, Hogan made his break with the President complete and appealed to Republicans to turn on Mr. Nixon for the good of their own party.

"While this political scandal called Watergate is the shame of America, it is even more poignantly the shame of the Republican Party," Hogan wrote.

"While the travesties of Watergate were perpetrated outside the regular channels of Republican Party organizations, they were all committed by Republicans for the benefit of a Republican President. Each of the 20 presidential aides who have been convicted was a Republican."

"It seems to me," Hogan added, "in addition to our

responsibilities to the country, we also have a responsibility to our party to rectify these wrongs. Do we want to be the party loyalists who in ringing rhetoric condemn the wrongdoings and scandals of the Democratic Party and excuse them when they are done by Republicans?"

Hogan added that after studying the evidence against the President he considers it "unthinkable that we not remove him from office." He praised Vice President Ford for his "integrity, his honesty and his dedication to his country's welfare" and said Republicans "should not fear this transition of leadership" but should "welcome and demand it."

Unlike his earlier statements on impeachment, Hogan did not mention in the letter his long association with the President or his support for most of Mr. Nixon's policies. Instead, he concentrated on attacking

the President for damaging the Republican Party.

In a telephone interview yesterday Hogan said he directed the letter at Republican House members who have condemned him for abandoning their party's President.

"I've been getting a lot of abuse around here (the House), some of it to my face but most of it behind my back," he said. "What irritates me is that I'm being condemned by people who haven't seen the evidence."

To counter this criticism, Hogan said he decided to defend his proimpeachment stand "from a purely political position."

"The smartest political thing for the Republican Party is to get rid of Richard Nixon," he said.

Meanwhile, yesterday, Hogan, his aides and other Maryland political figures continued to assess the impact of the nationally tele-

Leagues to Back Impeachment

vised Judiciary Committee impeachment proceedings on Hogan's campaign for governor.

Hogan is favored to defeat Louise Gore, Maryland's Republican national committeewoman, in the Sept. 10 GOP primary, but is considered an underdog against Gov. Marvin Mandel, the likely winner of the Democratic primary.

There is general agreement in state political circles that Hogan handled himself well during the televised proceedings and that the massive dose of publicity he received because of the impeachment inquiry has suddenly made him one of Maryland's best known politicians.

There is disagreement, however, on whether these factors will transform themselves into additional votes, with Hogan himself voicing one of the gloomiest outlooks on the political impact of his call for impeachment.

Hogan said yesterday he has had one telegram from a Republican leader in one Maryland county that said simply, "Goodbye, Larry." Although conceding that his political standing among shocked Republicans should improve, "especially if the House backs me up with an impeachment vote," Hogan said his proimpeachment stand has cost him many of his traditional supporters but probably will not be enough to sway many Democrats to vote for him for governor.

Hogan announced last week, on the eve of the Judiciary Committee's debate over impeachment, that he would vote for impeachment. By being the first Republican member of the Committee to take a pro-impeachment stand, Hogan assured himself of a maximum amount of publicity in Maryland and throughout the country.

Del Malkie, Hogan's press

aide, said yesterday that telegrams, telephone calls and early reactions received in the mail continued to run slightly in Hogan's favor, both from the state and from the nation as a whole.

Malkie said some irate Nixon supporters have sent Hogan dimes and pennies—meant to be the equivalent of the biblical 30 pieces of silver—but that Hogan has also received 40 to 50 checks containing genuine campaign contributions.

Malkie also said that the Judiciary Committee debates, in which six other Republicans joined Hogan in voting for at least one article of impeachment, "reversed a lot of the initial adverse reaction."

Gov. Mandel has continued to remain silent on Hogan's votes for impeachment. Privately, Mandel's political strategists concede the Hogan has received a tremendous boost in name recognition, but contend

that this will transform itself into few extra votes in November and may in fact cost Hogan because of Republican defections.

Although the Judiciary Committee debates are over, the impeachment inquiry may continue to prevent Hogan from doing much active campaigning in Maryland.

The full House is not expected to vote on the impeachment articles until late August. Moreover, Hogan already has been mentioned in press speculation as a possible Republican manager of the impeachment case should it go to the Senate from trial.

In that event, Hogan could find himself tied to six-day-a-week Senate sessions while Mandel campaigned throughout the state. Hogan said yesterday he did not expect to be asked to be an impeachment manager, but if he was would "feel compelled to take it."