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Impeachment Climate Attributed to Media

RICHMOND (AP)—Sen. William R. Scott (R-Va.) said yesterday labor unions and the liberal media are partly to blame for the pro-impeachment climate that he conceded is growing stronger day by day in Congress.

In a news conference devoted almost exclusively to consideration of the move to impeach President Nixon, Scott gave few specifics to back up his charge against the media.

He noted labor unions contributed heavily to the re-election campaigns of Democratic members of the House Judiciary Committee, which has voted three articles of impeachment against the President.

The conservative senator seemed to indicate in his response to questions that he has tempered his previous optimism that Mr. Nixon won't be impeached and agreed that it now appears almost certain the matter will come to trial in the Senate.

As for the Senate's action, he said, "I would guess it would not vote for impeachment."

Scott reiterated his belief that Mr. Nixon has committed no impeachable offense, but went on to say he would vote for impeachment if the charges against the President were "supported by provable facts."

"I'm not suggesting that the President hasn't done things he shouldn't have done," the senator said, "but they haven't been proven."

Scott conceded things have "changed for the worse" for

Mr. Nixon in recent weeks, but he said the President should still be extended a presumption of innocence until there is "clear and convincing evidence" of major wrongdoing.

Scott said he didn't agree with the conclusions reached by 6th District Republican Rep. M. Caldwell Butler, who voted for two of the three impeachment articles, but wouldn't question Butler's right to reach those conclusions.

At the same time, however, he said, "I will have some hesitancy" about campaigning for Butler in his re-election bid this year.

Asked whether he felt the television broadcasts of the Judiciary Committee's deliberations were anything but factual, he said, "Anyone who hasn't heard anything of a propaganda nature just hasn't been listening."

While conceding that part of the accumulation of evidence against the President is "undoubtedly true," Scott said he still believed the articles of impeachment fell short of constitutional requirements.

He said he thought the only grounds for impeachment would be a criminal offense.

The senator said mail from his constituents is running as much as 10-to-1 in favor of the **President.**

He said he hasn't noticed any special effort on the part of the President's forces to influence either his position impeachment or that of other conservative members of the Senate.

"He, Nixon, hasn't courted me," he said.