

# Poll Finds Support Eroding

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A Washington Post sampling of 75 previously uncommitted Republican congressmen shows 41 of them will now vote to impeach President Nixon on at least one of the three articles approved by the House Judiciary Committee.

The movement appears indicative of the impact of Mr. Nixon's disclosure Monday that he ordered a cover-up of some of the facts of Watergate within six days of the June 17, 1972, break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters.

Thirty-five of those 41 had said in Washington Post poll taken just last week that they had not decided how they would vote.

Of the 75 contacted by The Post, 49 said the latest disclosures had moved them closer to voting for impeachment. Fifteen said they remained undecided. The rest would not comment.

Most of those responding predicted a tidal wave of impeachment votes in the House, and many predicted conviction in any subsequent Senate trial. Eleven said they would like to see Mr. Nixon resign to spare the nation further turmoil.

Most members explained their changed decisions in written statements tinged with shock, shame and sadness.

Typical was a comment from Rep. Louis C. Wyman of New Hampshire, a friend and supporter of the President for more than 20 years:

"In the light of his statement yesterday, the best interests of the country would be served by his resignation and he should meet with the Chief Justice and the Vice President to make the necessary arrangements for an orderly transition of executive power without delay.

"I am truly sorry for the President. He has done much for the good of the world, but it's all over for him now. The admissions he's made, they pull the rug out from under even his staunchest supporters in the House..."

A sampling of other comments:

Rep. James T. Broyhill (N.C.): "... In light of these developments, I anticipate that the vote for impeachment will be overwhelming if the President does not resign."

Rep. Mark Andrews (N.D.): "Now that we've got the additional tapes... we know beyond any doubt there was a deliberate attempt by the President to obstruct justice. I think that the best interests of the country now call for the swiftest transfer of government to Jerry Ford."

Rep. William F. Walsh (N.Y.): "When the President admitted he had acted to slow the FBI investigation of the Watergate case and that he had withheld this information from the Supreme Court, the Congress, and his own lawyer, he effectively eliminated any options the members of the House may have had."

Rep. Nelson Jack Edwards (Ala.): "... I have said all along that I didn't want to vote for impeachment, but that I would do so if the evidence warranted that drastic step. The President's admission, supported by the June 23 transcript, seems to provide the missing evidence..."

Rep. George M. O'Brien (Ill.): "I'm convinced that the President clearly attempted to use the CIA to curb the FBI investigation of the Watergate conspiracy. This makes out a prima facie case for obstruction of justice... The ties of loyalty must give way before the harsh realities of this latest evidence."

Rep. Robert H. Steele (Conn.): "I fully recognize the continued national agony that impeachment will mean; however, I believe that refusal to impeach would do even greater damage to the nation... The best course at this point in my view would be for the President to resign."

Rep. Edward R. Madigan (Ill.): "On two separate occasions I have been in the company of President Nixon and there have received assurances concerning his degree of participation in the ill-fated Committee to Reelect the President. Yesterday afternoon I was shocked to read the President's statement which directly contradicted the statements previously made to me."

Rep. John Y. McCollister (Neb.): "It's all over. I will vote for impeachment. I think there won't be many in the House that won't. The President's statement resolves any lingering doubts I had. It's a tremendous sad day."

Rep. Marjorie S. Holt (Md.): "To those of you who have believed steadfastly in President Nixon's innocence... I have the sad duty to inform you that such a conclusion is no longer possible for me... I am asking Nixon to resign the Presi-

the country further agony."

Rep. Richard G. Shoup (Mont.): "The question of the impeachment of President Nixon has now been resolved. Through his own admissions and statements there is now clear and convincing evidence to support Article I, obstruction of justice, and Article II, misuse of presidential powers."

Rep. Margaret Heckler (Mass.): "Now we are confronted by the President's own admission of involvement in cover-up activities, which is shocking beyond belief."

Rep. Frank Horton (N.Y.): "The only thing now is to remove Nixon from office. If his own resignation is not forthcoming, the House

must impeach him so that the Senate can soon begin the impeachment trial, which I believe will end with his removal from this highest office of public trust."

Rep. William H. Harsha (Ohio): "What he has admitted to is a felony and that certainly comes within

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the definition of high crimes and misdemeanors."

Only one of those surveyed by The Washington Post, Rep. Earl Landgrebe of Indiana, said he had not changed his support for the President.

"I'm sticking by my President even if he and I have to be carried out of this building and be shot," Landgrebe said.

The President's own congressman, Rep. Clair W. Burgener of California, said that if "careful examination" bears out reports of the latest disclosures, he would "sadly have to vote for Article I of impeachment."

Staff writers Stuart Auerbach and Jane Rippeteau contributed to this article.