

# Nixon Lobbyists Say His Woes Didn't

By William Chapman  
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The men who lobbied Congress in behalf of a collapsing presidency left the White House yesterday convinced that former Presi-

## Rockville Granted More HUD Funds

Rockville's mid-city urban renewal project has been awarded an additional \$1,642,697 in federal funds, according to an announcement from Maryland's two Republican senators, J. Glenn Beall Jr. and Charles McC. Mathian Jr. The grant, from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, supplements earlier awards of \$8.5 million for the same project.

dent Nixon's impeachment troubles had very little effect on the course of legislation.

"Impeachment really didn't interfere very much with what we were doing elsewhere on the Hill," recalled William E. Timmons, the former White House congressional liaison chief.

"A lot of reporters were wrong. I remember [in 1973] when we lost the war powers override [President Nixon's veto of the bill restricting presidential powers], everyone was saying it was Watergate and they tried to link the two. Actually, there was no relationship at all. That was just an institutional fight between two great bodies of the government."

Timmons, who remained

on President Ford's staff after Nixon resigned, officially left the office in mid-December. He and two other congressional liaison aides who are also departing—Tom C. Korologos and Gene Ainsworth—will set up a lobbying firm for business clients in an office building a block from the White House.

The three men were President Nixon's emissaries to Capitol Hill in the turbulent times of the Watergate hearings and the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment inquiry. While those stormy events were underway, they said in interviews yesterday, routine legislation went its own routine. It had its funny moments. Korologos recalls, with hu-

mor now, that with Nixon's popularity sinking rapidly in the polls, there wasn't much happening on Capitol Hill that could inflict any more harm.

"People used to laugh at me. A senator would come up to me and say about some bill they'd just passed, 'You are not going to veto that one, are you?'"

"I'd say, 'You don't think it could hurt our image, do you?' When you're down to 25 per cent in the polls, there's not a lot you can worry about, is there? You don't stop and worry about what the Greeks or the blacks are going to think. Actually, a lot of good government was going on in those days."

Korologos and Timmons

## Affect Legislation

are convinced that votes on legislation were not lost because of President Nixon's entanglement in the Watergate proceedings.

"It was tough for a while, but our problem was in keeping the legislation separate from impeachment," said Korologos. "But there weren't any votes lost because of impeachment. Everyone voted his district anyway. A military appropriations bill had nothing to do with impeachment."

Both agreed that Nixon's relationship with Congress never was exactly cozy. He never much liked making telephone calls to key congressmen, those acts of duty that President Ford actually seems to relish.

"If you put in a sugges-

tion for Ford to call up someone, a conferee or a ranking committee member, he'll do it," said Timmons.

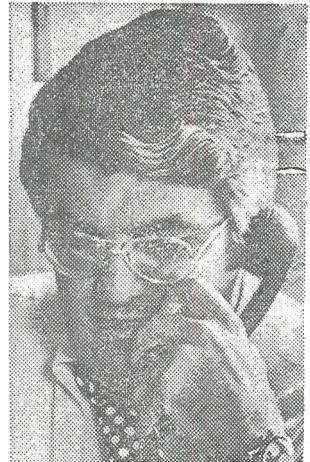
"Nixon was not comfortable doing that. He did some of it, of course, but it wasn't often, and when he did he really wouldn't like it. It was awkward for him. It was not his nature. Ford is comfortable doing it and he's pretty persuasive in personal negotiations."

Timmons had been in the Nixon administration from the start, one of those 1968 aides chosen to join the "transition team" at meetings in the Hotel Pierre in New York after the election.

Korologos came on the congressional liaison staff in April, 1971, and for two



WILLIAM A. TIMMONS



TOM C. KOROLOGOS

... their efforts in Congress called routine

years was in charge of White House relations with the Senate.

The new lobbying firm will include the three former White House lobbyists and Stanley Ebner, former

general counsel to the Office of Management and Budget. It will be a general Washington representational firm handling an assortment of clients from the business world.