



Students favor impeachment of 'frightened, crooked' Nixon

By Randy Wright

Undertaking impeachment proceedings is the best step Congress can take in dealing with President Nixon and the Watergate affair, according to more than half of 28 students interviewed on the UNL City Campus Monday and Tuesday.

Frightened and shocked were two common words students used to express their feelings about the scandal.

More than 50 per cent of the Democrats and Republicans interviewed favored impeachment as a means of getting to the truth behind Nixon's controversial actions.

The events of the last week "make Nixon look like a frightened man, like he's hiding himself behind his office," said one student.

These events included the firing of Watergate special prosecutor Archibald Cox and Deputy U.S. Atty. Gen. William Ruckelshaus, plus the resignation of Atty. Gen. Elliot Richardson.

White House officials, said another student, "seem to be saying 'You can't use me to hide behind.'"

Though most said they favor impeachment, nearly all said the country would experience at least a short period of chaos and mass confusion if Nixon was impeached and removed from office.

There were also those, especially students who rated themselves as conservatives, who said they believed the investigation would bring the

country together.

"People will realize what really is going on in Washington," said one student.

Most said the long range effect on the country would be slight, and many predicted a cleaning out of American politics.

Nixon came under extreme criticism from all factions for his handling of the Watergate affair. Crooked, paranoid, power monger, and weird were some of the descriptions used.

About 10 per cent of those interviewed said they were unconcerned or not informed enough on the issue to comment.

The effect of the scandal on international relations was repeatedly brought up.

"How can we expect peace in the Middle East when we don't even have it in the White House?" asked one student.

A few had doubts about the President's sanity. "There is definitely something wrong in his head," said one Republican.

The question of whether or not the President has done anything illegal brought split responses. Suspicious was the word used most often in reference to his actions. About one fourth of the students interviewed maintained he was guiltless.

The solution is simple, according to one Democrat.

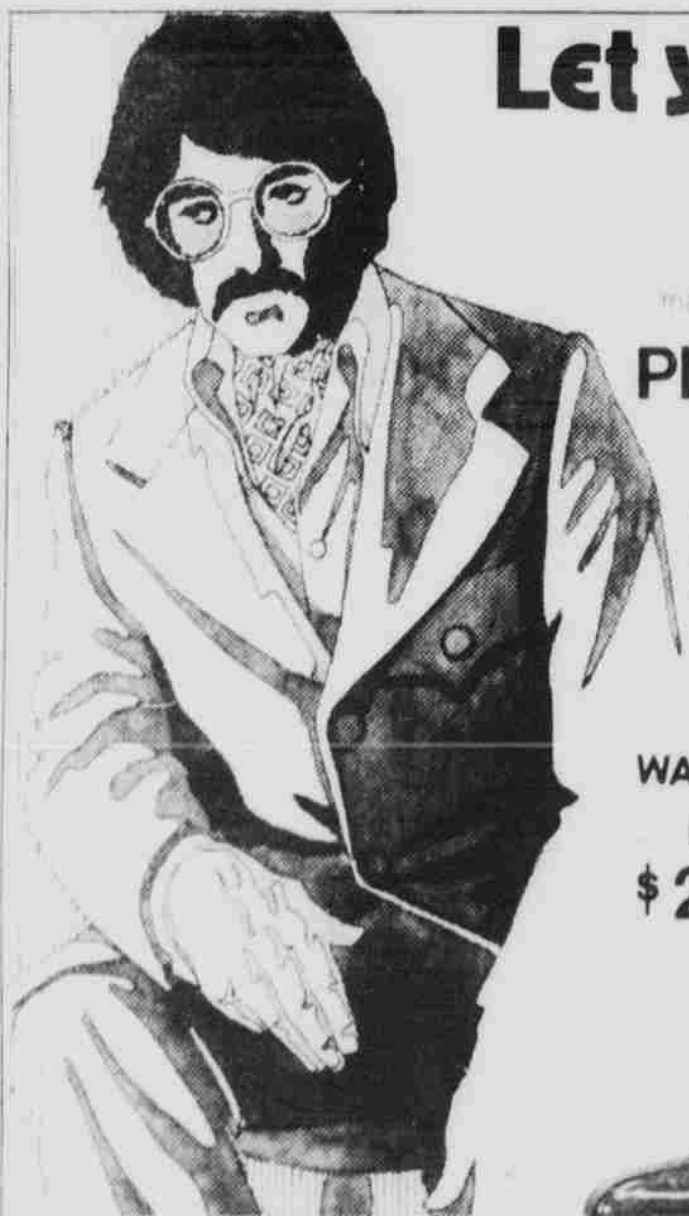
"What this country needs is a good leader," she said.



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