

Impeach Nixon, Cry Of Demos

Examiner News Services

WASHINGTON — House members opposed to President Nixon's latest action in the war in Vietnam said today they would introduce legislation calling for his impeachment.

The proceedings against Nixon for "exceeding his constitutional authority to wage war" has been drafted.

Daniel Ellsberg, who revealed the Pentagon Papers to the nation, said in Chicago yesterday that Rep. John Conyers Jr. (D-Mich.) was preparing an impeachment resolution. The congressman's office said that a draft of the impeachment resolution has already been drawn.

Rep. Bella Abzug (D-N.Y.) told the House today Nixon's decision to mine North Vietnam's harbors amounted to the "high crime" against the American people that is cause for impeachment under the Constitution.

She called it a one-man decision taken in defiance of the overwhelming sentiment of the American people.

A meeting of 10 to 20 congressmen has been called for tomorrow to determine the extent of support for the move.

"If they (the congressmen) get together on this, we will move to introduce it within a week," Robert Carr, administrative assistant to Conyers, said.

Carr said that the resolution, drafted with the help of the Lawyers Committee on American Policy Toward Vietnam, based in New York, calls for impeachment of Nixon on the following ground:

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That he has exceeded his constitutional authority to wage war, having never obtained a formal declaration of war from Congress nor a "Gulf of Tonkin" authority to direct the war without periodic review by Congress.

Conyers also said Nixon has violated the intent and purpose of the Mansfield Amendment, an end-the-war measure introduced by Senate majority leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.), calling for a total pullout of U.S. forces from Indochina within six months, conditioned solely to release of all American prisoners of war.

The Mansfield Amendment has been tacked on several bills that have passed the Senate this year, but the issue has not cleared the House.

Carr rated the prospect of an impeachment proposal passing the House and going to the Senate as "very slim, indeed." He said Conyer's intention is to again raise the issue of Nixon's conduct of the war.

A majority vote is required in the House of Representatives to bring a President before the Senate for a trial on impeachment charges.

A conviction, which could result in removal from office, requires two-thirds of the votes of those present in the Senate.