

Lonely McCloskey

Stand on Nixon

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Starting a national dialogue on whether President Nixon should be impeached because of his conduct of the Vietnam war can be a lonely business, Rep. Paul N. McCloskey Jr., has learned.

The San Mateo County Republican made the suggestion at Stanford University last week, repeated it on television a few days ago, and tossed it out again on the House floor yesterday, but it has been strictly a monologue so far.

Not only did he find no takers among the handful of House colleagues who heard him, but fellow Republicans rallied strongly to Nixon's side and the Young Republicans canceled an appearance he was scheduled to make today at a youth leadership conference.

Ex-Marine Officer

But McCloskey, who led a Marine rifle platoon in the Korean War and, as a political unknown, defeated Shirley Temple when he won election to Congress four years ago, is not discouraged and he is not backing down.

"In the first place, I never advocated the impeachment of Nixon," he said yesterday, sitting in his office after delivering his speech. He hadn't finished writing it until 6:30 a.m. and his eyes were red-rimmed from lack of sleep.

McCloskey said he had suggested, in response to a question from Stanford students, that impeachment was one of three ways of ending the war. The other two were to get Nixon to change his mind and to cut off funds to carry on the war.

"Congress is never going to impeach Nixon," he said, "and I told the students that. But I said that if we could



PAUL McCLOSKEY
Embattled against war

start a national dialogue on impeaching him it might be the best way to get him to change his mind."

McCloskey feels news reports of his Stanford remarks misrepresented his position and it was largely to set the record straight that he gave his House speech.

'Depth of Despair'

"I do not advocate impeachment," he said in a speech, "but the question is certainly one which justifies a national discussion and debate, if only to bring home to the President the depth of despair many of us feel over his recent moves without prior consent of the Congress."

In his television interview McCloskey added a fourth step that might be taken to pressure Nixon into ending the Indochina war — running a peace candidate against him in the 1972 presidential primaries. He didn't mention it in his House speech but he did in his office afterward.

"It's too early to start any-

thing like that now," he said, "but if by the end of 1971 our troops either are not all out or a date for their withdrawal has not been set, then it would be timely and proper for the Republicans to put forward another candidate with an alternative viewpoint."

McCloskey, who won the Navy Cross, Silver Star and Purple Heart in Korea and was promoted to full colonel in the Marine Reserves just two weeks ago does not take positions lightly or easily.

He supported U.S. involvement in the war, although reluctantly, at the time he entered the congressional campaign against Shirley Temple Black.

Changes Mind

"I thought a loyal American had no option but to support the President," he said. But as the war became an issue in the campaign he began to think more about it. "I went into hiding for two months and finally wrote a statement of my position," he said.

In that 1967 declaration McCloskey concluded the United States could not win the war and should end its massive military commitment as soon as possible. Foreshadowing the present Nixon policy, he called for gradual disengagement of U.S. forces in South Vietnam.

McCloskey now feels Nixon is not withdrawing troops fast enough and that he is violating congressional intent by providing massive air support for operations in Cambodia and Laos.

The main thrust of his speech yesterday was to urge Congress to reassert its power to declare war and to cut off funds for the Vietnam war by the end of the year.