

Congress in Mood For Confrontation

by Joseph Kraft

The 93rd Congress convenes this week in an atmosphere of confrontation with President Nixon. ....

The only question is a question of guts. It is not clear whether the men pleased to call themselves leaders in the Senate and House are truly prepared to take responsibility for the strong actions that are now required.

[Kraft lists as areas of confrontation the bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong, Nixon's impounding of funds voted by Congress, and the matter of executive privilege.]

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There is not much doubt about what steps are required to curb the President. The way to assure peace is to cut off funds for the war. The right response to Mr. Nixon's indiscriminate impounding of funds is to cut off money for White House operations. As to executive privilege, the appropriate reaction is a tough investigation of the Watergate affair [not mentioned earlier in the column] in which the President's political operatives showed so little respect for the privacy of other political leaders.