



SEN. GEORGE MCGOVERN
 ... predicts resignation



SEN. GEORGE AIKEN
 ... deadline duty

Aiken Says House Should Set Deadline For Impeachment

By Susanna McBee
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Sen. George Aiken of Vermont, the senior Republican in the Senate, said yesterday the House of Representatives should set a deadline to impeach President Nixon or declare that it can find no charge to bring against him.

Aiken, 81, disagreed with calls for Mr. Nixon's resignation that have come from several newspapers and three other senators—Edward W. Brooke (R-Mass.), Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii) and John V. Tunney (D-Calif.).

"Of course, if the President resigns, we will be relieved of our duty," Aiken said in a Senate speech. "But I fail to see any great act of patriotism in such a drama. On the contrary, it is the President's duty to his country not to resign."

Aiken said the House has a duty to "set a deadline, of weeks or months, in which to come up with an impeachment charge. If the deadline passes without an agreed charge," he added, "I expect that the leaders will tell the American people that no agreed impeachment charge can be found."

An impeachment is equivalent to an indictment in court. If the House were to vote, by a simple majority, for impeachment, the President would be tried by the Senate, which could convict and remove him from office only by a two-thirds vote. President Andrew Johnson was impeached in 1868, but the Senate failed by one vote to muster the two-thirds majority needed for conviction.

Aiken gave Congress the same advice about Mr. Nixon that he said he received from a Vermont constituent: "Either impeach him or get off his back."

The senator said the President's explanations about the Watergate scandal "have been astonishingly inept. But this is not of itself an impeachable charge."

Aiken's speech was praised by Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.), Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.), who lost the presidential race to Mr. Nixon last year, and Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.), who lost to him in 1968.

Mansfield said impeachment is a matter for the

House to decide, that resignation is up to the President alone, and that "regardless of the travail, malaise and difficulties confronting this country, the republic is going to survive."

Humphrey warned, "We should not go out on a political lynching party."

McGovern cautioned against "self-righteous rhetoric," but said, "We should be willing to call a spade a spade." Later he predicted that Mr. Nixon will resign or be impeached in the next few months.

Conservative columnist James J. Kilpatrick said on television last night, "The time has come for impeachment," as a way of resolving charges against the President.

Kilpatrick added, "My prayerful conviction is that a full-blown trial by the Senate, on a definite bill of impeachment drawn by the House, would result in Mr. Nixon's ringing acquittal."

He explained that he was joining those who urge impeachment because "we must put an end to the state of siege that now depresses and enervates the whole business of federal government."

On Tuesday, Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.) called on the President to dispense with all of his current Cabinet members except Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and replace them with a bipartisan coalition to help him govern until the Watergate charges are resolved.

Hatfield suggested that such a coalition might include former Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg, former Health, Education and Welfare Secretary John Gardner, who now heads Common Cause, and former Pennsylvania Gov. William Scranton.

"I cannot think that even Richard Nixon can think he can govern under present circumstances — circumstances that are being exacerbated week after week," Hatfield said at a convocation of the Boston University School of Theology.

He said a bipartisan coalition government is needed "to restore Americans' confidence and trust in their government. That has been totally lost by the President."

The senator, however, did not call for Mr. Nixon's resignation or impeachment, adding that "there is a feeling that somehow this nation of ours will be brought to a standstill during an impeachment trial."

A Hatfield aide said the senator's suggested coalition Cabinet would be a step the President could take immediately to demonstrate that effective government can continue. It also would "dilute the influence of White House counsellors," he said.