

# Nixon Warning On Impeachment

Washington

President Nixon, cautioning against demands for his resignation or impeachment, told Republican members of Congress yesterday that, "if you cut the legs off the president, America is going to lose."

In a second round of White House meetings intended to help restore his credibility, Mr. Nixon warned that U.S. allies might consider "leaning toward" the Soviet Union if domestic issues diminished the authority of the presidency.

Mr. Nixon told 75 House Republicans yesterday morning that he would not block any attempts by Leon Jaworski, the new Watergate special prosecutor, to go to court to obtain White House evidence.

Mr. Nixon specifically disputed charges that his administration had abandoned antitrust action against the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. and that he had raised milk price supports in exchange for 1972 presidential campaign contributions.

Moreover, he reportedly challenged suggestions that his estates in Key Biscayne, Fla., and San Clemente, Calif., had been improperly financed and that he had secretly assembled a \$1 million fund. According to Representative Alphonzo Bell (Rep-Calif.), the President declared:

"If I wanted to make money, I would not be in this business. If I wanted to cheat, I wouldn't do it here."

Mr. Nixon, who began a series of meetings with members of Congress last Friday, met with the House Republicans over corned beef hash and eggs in the

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state dining room. Later yesterday he held a second meeting with Republican members of the Senate. The sessions are scheduled to continue today, when some 50 conservative House Democrats will also be asked to participate.

The White House also announced that the President would address the National Association of Real Estate Boards here today and Governor Winfield Dunn of Tennessee, said that Mr. Nixon would meet privately with members of the Republican governors conference next Tuesday in Memphis.

## POINTS

According to Republicans who met with Mr. Nixon yesterday, some of whom took notes on the dialogue, the President also made the following points:

In the evening session with 14 GOP senators, the President was quoted as saying he is seeking a way to make public information from his tapes but still protect the legal rights of other persons.

One participant, Senator Charles H. Percy of Illinois, also said the question of resignation came up at the meeting. He said the President emphasized "ten different times in 20 different ways . . . that in no way would he walk away from the job and resign."

• The White House tape recordings of Mr. Nixon's Watergate conversations are being examined by officials of the National Security Agency to verify that they have not been altered, and the agency's report will be submitted to U.S. District Judge John Sirica.

• Mr. Nixon is confident that documents and recordings will prove that John W. Dean III, the former White House legal counsel, erred in testifying to the Senate Watergate committee that the President was aware of the Watergate coverup well before March 21.

"I'm not saying John

Dean is a liar," Mr. Nixon was quoted as having said, "I'm just saying he's mistaken."

• The President is seriously considering submitting to a televised interrogation by three senior network newsmen and, while ruling out even an informal meeting with the Senate Watergate committee because of the "predisposition" of some of its members to disbelieve him, he may meet soon with the Democratic chairman, Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr. of North Carolina, and Republican vice chairman, Senator Howard H. Baker Jr. of Tennessee.

## SUGGESTION

Mr. Nixon was said to have rejected a suggestion from one House member that he offer an explanation for the Watergate-related scandals to a joint session of Congress.

Bell and Representative Marvin L. Esch of Michigan both reported that the President had explained, jokingly, that "the Democrats would probably say 'the son of a bitch is lying' and the Republicans would probably say, 'well, he's lying, but he's our son of a bitch.'"

The earthy, occasionally humorous and direct manner of Mr. Nixon at his meeting yesterday morning was cited by some of the House Republicans as an indication that the President had overcome the worst of the Watergate crisis.

Representative Albert Quie of Minnesota said Mr. Nixon's answers were "satisfactory" and Representative Hamilton Fish Jr. of New York said the House members had cheered when Mr. Nixon said he would not resign.

"If he's besieged, he surely didn't look like it," said Representative John Ashbrook of Ohio.

But Ashbrook and a number of his colleagues said that they were still not entirely satisfied with yesterday's session.

"The content of the meeting boiled down to 'believe us or believe them,'" Ashbrook said. "Some of us don't believe that's a good posture to go to the public with."

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