

# Chance for Impeachment

## --Senator Mathias' View



SENATOR MATHIAS  
'Very little alternative'

### Washington

Senator Charles McC. Mathias (Rep.-Md.), said yesterday President Nixon probably will be impeached if he fails to respond to "the general outcry for full disclosure" on Watergate.

"There will be very little alternative.

It has to be the answer," Mathias said. He added that

the impeachment process would provide "the only tribunal" for a full hearing of the charges without granting Mr. Nixon any special privilege.

If impeachment proceedings commence, Mathias said, "I can't imagine that any sort of privilege would be upheld" for Mr. Nixon to withhold information.

Mathias, a member of the

Senate Judiciary Committee, said he feels "confusion has grown instead of diminished" despite Mr. Nixon's promise to answer all charges. The President must move swiftly "to get it all out in the open," he said.

Asked why he thinks Mr. Nixon might be reluctant to come forward with information, Mathias said: "None of us likes bad news; confessions of mistakes come hard."

The senator was interviewed on CBS television's Face the Nation.

Mathias said the President's credibility had been damaged by contradictions in his Watergate statements and by the news last Wednesday that another White House tape is faulty.

Mathias said it is possible that no one deliberately blotted out an 18-minute portion of the tape of Mr. Nixon's conversation with his aide, H.R. Haldeman, on June 20, 1972 — three days after the Watergate arrests.

Mathias was responding to reports that the President's

secretary, Rose Mary Woods, erased that section of one of the Watergate tapes.

The problem, Mathias said, is that "the American people will never know" if the blank tape really was an accident. "The name of the game is to give people some reassurance and that's the tragedy," he said.

The only way to answer many "haunting questions," Mathias said, is for the President voluntarily to produce all material sought by a federal grand jury and the Senate Watergate committee.