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Nixon Seen Set to Fight 'Like Hell'

By Richard Lerner
United Press International

President Nixon told a group of Republican House members he is "gonna fight like hell" against impeachment, one of the congressmen reported yesterday.

Rep. Peter H. Frelinghuysen (R-N.J.), one of 18 GOP congressmen who met with Mr. Nixon Tuesday, quoted the President as saying:

"There is a time to be timid. There is a time to be conciliatory. There is a time to fly and there is a time to fight. And I'm going to fight like hell."

Frelinghuysen reported the President's position as Mr. Nixon called in about the same number of Democratic House members, presumably to give them the same message.

Frelinghuysen's account was the first time Mr. Nixon's views on impeachment were made public. Tuesday's meeting was the first opportunity Mr. Nixon had to talk with a large group of House members back from a month-long Christmas recess that allowed congressmen to test voter senti-

ment on impeachment.

Although presidential press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said Tuesday that Mr. Nixon was not giving any thought to resignation, he — like other White House officials — generally declined to respond to questions about impeachment, saying it was a matter for the House to decide.

Rep. Craig Hosmer (R-Calif.) said Mr. Nixon brought up the subject of Watergate. "He reiterated about six times he wasn't going to let the last election be repealed by attacks in the media," Hosmer said.

The White House, announcing Mr. Nixon's meetings with the congressmen, said the sessions were intended to discuss the outlook for legislative action on a variety of matters this year. When questioned by reporters, deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren made no mention of Mr. Nixon's statements and maintained there had been "no detailed discussion of impeachment" at Tuesday's meetings.

Frelinghuysen told UPI that Mr. Nixon advised the GOP members that everything he said was "on the record" and that they were free to quote him publicly.

He said Mr. Nixon told the group he considered himself a "political realist" and recognized, with his current low standing in public opinion polls, that he "might be a liability and not necessarily an asset" for GOP congressional candidates in November's elections.