

Mills Says Nixon Will Go --GOP Defense of Probe

Washington

A House Republican leader defended the judiciary committee's handling of the impeachment inquiry yesterday saying that it was acting with restraint and care.

Representative John B. Anderson of Illinois, chairman of the House Republican Conference, said the White House should turn over all evidence requested by the committee. Continued refusal to do so could become "the basis for a charge relating to impeachment," Anderson said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

On another televised program, Representative Wilbur D. Mills (Dem-Ark.) predicted that President Nixon will be out of office by November — toppled by a combination of Republican pressure and public disapproval of his minimal income tax payments.

Anderson described the House committee's work as a "solemn" constitutional task that should not be "demeaned in any way."

He said he hoped that the present series of public ap-



REP. ANDERSON
It shouldn't be 'demeaned'

pearances by the President did not represent a strategy of going over the head of the Congress in fighting impeachment.

"If, indeed, the strategy has become to go to the country—in effect to go over the heads of Congress, to go over the heads of the members of the House Judiciary Committee—I think this is a mistake," Anderson said.

"I don't think that the committee should be reviled or should be demeaned in any way. To date I think its procedures have been careful. They have been in accordance with a mandate that we have under the Constitution.

"I hope very much that that does not prove to be the strategy of the White House."

Mills, chairman of the ways and means committee, appeared on CBS' "Face the Nation."

He said he expects President Nixon to be out of office by the November elections.

"By resignation, by impeachment?" he was asked.

"One or the other. I do not know which at this time. If he stays in office as President, members of his own party know they'll lose seats in the House."

Mills predicted that a surprising number of Republicans would vote for impeachment.

"The significant thing to me," he said, "is that so many members have told me that it would cost them

votes right now with all of this in the air to have the President come to their district to campaign for them.

"Now, this the President must know. I'm sure he knows it."

Mills said he would be glad to sponsor and try to pass legislation that gave (Mr. Nixon) complete immunity from prosecution once he was out of office, if he makes the decision to resign."

He said he thought that the President's problems with his income taxes had a profound effect on the American public. Mills is a member of the Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation, which is studying Mr. Nixon's tax returns.

"I don't care how he did it, why he did it, anything else," Mills said.

"The American public — the ones that I've talked to — think he hasn't paid as much taxes as he should. And I doubt that anything we could say in behalf of him in our report would change that opinion among the American people."

Mills listed as key problem areas the questions of a tax deduction for the gift to the National Archives of Mr. Nixon's vice presidential papers; the value of a portion of the President's San Clemente property which was sold; and whether the President followed the law when he sold a New York condominium and reinvested the funds in San Clemente.

New York Times