

NIXON MAY
CAMPAIGN IN
MICHIGAN

Washington

President Nixon has decided to risk a test of his political popularity in an up-for-grabs Michigan special congressional election, a well-informed Republican source said yesterday.

The source said Mr. Nixon has tentatively decided to appear in the Michigan Eighth District on April 10 at the invitation of Republican nominee James Sparling, who last year worked briefly at the White House.

Sparling, who told a news conference yesterday that "a shadow of guilt" hangs over Mr. Nixon, said that if he wins the special election any proof of wrongdoing by the President "will draw my firm vote for impeachment."

Sparling said Mr. Nixon has been informed of his position on the subject of impeachment, and said that the decision to come to Michigan is for the President to make.

Sparling said that he does not defend Mr. Nixon's actions.

"However, the people of the Eighth District have a right to know why the President finds himself facing this terrible dilemma.

"In addition to Watergate and its miserable ramifications, our people are demanding some tough no-

nonsense answers regarding inflation, the economy, unemployment and the energy crisis."

The invitation provoked an immediate dispute within the Michigan Republican party. Saginaw GOP Chairman Robert Grant, who wants Republican candidates to put distance between themselves and the President on the Watergate issue, said the Nixon visit would not be helpful.

"Neither Jim's cause nor the party's cause will be served by the President coming here," Grant said. "I don't want any part of it."

The decision was regarded by Democrats as virtually certain to turn the election into a referendum on Mr. Nixon, even though such other prominent Republicans as Vice President Genald Ford, Illinois Senator Charles Percy and Michigan Governor William Milliken also will campaign for Sparling.

However, Republicans said that Democrats are making Mr. Nixon the main issue in the election anyway, and that Sparling would now have the benefits of the President's support as well as the liabilities.

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