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Laird Sees Defeat Of Impeachment

PEORIA, Ill., May 22 (UPI)—Former Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird said Tuesday that if the House voted on President Nixon' impeachment now, the vote would run against impeachment by at least a 25-vote margin.

Laird, who avoided most questions on Watergate at a news conference following an appearance before the 83d annual Illinois Bankers Association convention, said, "Right now I think there is only a 25-to 30-vote majority against impeachment."

He said his assesment was "just a gut reaction." Laird last January had predicted an impeachment vote would fall in the House by 100 votes.