Nixon's (6)

SFChronicleJUL 2 2 1974
San Clemente

President Nixon, bracing for final House Judiciary Committee debate this week, summoned his chief defense lawyer to his home in San Clemente yesterday for a thorough discussion of the impeachment proceedings.

As attorney James St. Clair was flying west from Washington, press secretary Ronald Ziegler said the case against Mr. Nixon is based on "conjecture, not supported by fact."

"Congress will find there is no ground for impeachment," Ziegler predicted.

Ziegler acknowledged that Mr. Nixon wants to confer in depth with St. Clair. This may indicate a growing White House concern over speculation that the Judiciary Committee will end its debate by voting in favor of impeachment with the help of at least some Republicans.

Ziegler said the President is confident of ultimate victory in the impeachment struggle.

"I know the President feels Mr. St. Clair has done a very effective job in presenting the facts to the Judiciary Committee," Ziegler said. "He feels that if the people look at the facts, they will find there is no impeachable offense."

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