

Congress Plans To Take It Easy

Washington

After consulting with President Ford, congressional leaders have scheduled a brief recess beginning the latter part of August.

With impeachment out of the way, House and Senate leaders feel they have some breathing space for finishing up legislation begun this session, and, according to House Majority Whip John McFall, the new President said he could use the time Congress was away to get his new administration set up.

The House will take a break from August 22 to September 11, while the Senate recess will begin August 23 and end September 4.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield said yesterday he would set October 1 as a target adjournment date in this election year, with October 15 as a fall-back time for adjournment.

McFall said the recess was discussed with President Ford at the meeting of congressional leaders with the President following his

swearing in.

President Ford is expected to send Congress his nomination for the new vice president within the next ten days. The recess time would then be used to run the FBI and security checks necessary on the vice presidential nominee, and the judiciary committees of both houses would begin confirmation hearings when the Congress returned.

In response to a question, McFall said he didn't know whether the recess and the October adjournment would allow time to pass some legislation, such as national health insurance and tax reform, that Congress probably couldn't have gotten to if impeachment went forward.

The mood on Capitol Hill after the swearing in of Mr. Ford yesterday was light-hearted, with members showing a visible feeling of relief that the transition was going smoothly.

Both houses passed without a single dissent a resolution expressing best wishes to Mr. Ford.

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