

# McCloskey Asks Nixon Disclosure

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Paul N. McCloskey, R-Calif., urged President Nixon Wednesday to “fully and fairly disclose” any evidence he has regarding the Watergate burglary and remove the possible necessity of impeachment proceedings.

The disclosure, McCloskey said in a House speech, should deal with any White House knowledge of the Watergate case including its cover-up and the financing and tactics of his campaign organization. It should also include, he said, “all actions of the executive branch relating to the prosecution of Daniel Ellsberg, and in particular the domestic security activities, legal and illegal, of the President’s own special investigations unit.”

“I suspect,” he added, “that none of us wish to impeach the President or even inquire into the matter if he will fairly lay before us the facts that will establish his right to honorable acquittal or the precise reasons for his inability to properly release such facts.”

In advance of his speech in the House, McCloskey had invited colleagues to participate in a discussion of Watergate.

He suggested that the House look into the possibility of instituting preliminary impeachment proceedings.

McCloskey has opposed Nixon’s Vietnam war policy and ran against him last year in several presidential primaries.

If the national security were

truly involved, McCloskey said in his speech, “we can keep our proceedings secret. Our record in this regard is at least as good as those in whom the President has formerly reposed his trust.”

He expressed the hope that colleagues would defer the filing of an impeachment resolution or the appointment of a special inquiry committee “for a few more days” to give the President time for the requested disclosure. There have been no reports, however, that such steps are planned.

McCloskey stressed that “the issue before us is one of constitutional and legal import, not of political or partisan concern.”

Stating that the House is the “sole repository” of the power of impeachment, McCloskey said “neither the Senate nor the Justice Department shares this duty nor are we entitled to delegate it to them.”

“This being so,” he added, “the question before us is at what point of time does the evidence of guilt reach that degree of probable cause that we are bound by the Constitution to commence formal inquiry to me that time seems almost at hand unless the President makes a full and fair disclosure of everything he knows and when he learned it.”

He said he was not suggesting that the current Senate Watergate hearings “be in any way deferred.”