

House Clash Over Impoundment

Washington

House Democrats, accusing President Nixon of trying to establish "one-man rule," urged Congress yesterday to curb his power to withhold appropriated funds.

Republicans rallied to Mr. Nixon's support, however, as hearings began on a bill that would give Congress an opportunity to nullify any presidential impoundment of funds.

Chairman George H. Mahon (Dem-Tex.) of the House Appropriations Committee, and the author of the bill, said its enactment is necessary to preserve congressional authority over the federal purse strings.

Mahon's bill and his testimony won strong support from the Democrats on the House Rules Committee, which is conducting the hearings, but met only opposition from the Republican members.

"I want to tell you," said Representative Dave Martin (Rep-Neb.), the committee's ranking Republican, "that the people of the United States overwhelmingly support the President in his effort to reduce the cost of government."

"The people, in my opinion," replied Mahon, "support our system of govern-

ment and are opposed to one-man rule."

Some Republicans ridiculed the repeated references to "one-man rule," calling it an attempt to scare the American people.

Mahon's bill would require the President to notify Congress within ten days of any impoundment of funds. Congress would have 60 days to pass a resolution nullifying

the impoundment in whole or part.

Meanwhile, House Democrats and Republicans rolled out their big guns in preparation of the first major clash in the 1973 battle of the budget.

Assuming that the Senate will vote to override Mr. Nixon's veto of a \$2.6 billion vocational rehabilitation authorization bill next Tues-

day, the House planned to have its veto vote late Tuesday or Wednesday.

Speaker Carl Albert of Oklahoma said he hopes that the House would vote to override. But Republican leader Gerald R. Ford of Michigan said Republicans are "very optimistic" that the veto would be sustained.

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