

NIXON AIDE DEFENDS EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE

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WASHINGTON, May 8 (UPI) — An Assistant Attorney General testified today that President Nixon could invoke executive privilege even in a proceeding involving his own impeachment.

But Robert G. Dixon Jr., Justice Department legal counsel, quickly added that invoking the privilege "could contribute adversely to the executive's success" in such a proceeding.

Support was being sought in the House by Representatives John E. Moss of California, and Bella S. Abzug of Manhattan, both Democrats, for a resolution to form a committee of inquiry into the Watergate case and other instances of alleged campaign espionage as a first step that could lead to impeachment proceedings.

Mr. Dixon appeared before a House Government Operations subcommittee to announce the Administration's opposition to proposed changes in the Freedom of Information Act, some of which he said would "repeal the doctrine of executive privilege" — the presumed right of the executive branch to refuse to divulge information.