



## Cloudy Forecast For Mr. Nixon

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**T**WO FACTORS will all but certainly decide the President's future. Factor one is the mood the members of Congress are finding back home, and thus the mood in which Congress goes back to work. Factor two, far less important but not to be forgotten, is the sentiment for and against impeachment shown in the next reports of the leading poll-takers.

At this juncture, it is therefore necessary to be tentative. Yet it already seems rather clear that Mr. Nixon ought to be warned to get ready for bad news. Consider, for example, the Arkansas district of the powerful chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, Representative Wilbur Mills.

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**C**HAIRMAN MILLS is famous in the House as a man able to judge the feelings of his constituents with almost magical accuracy. His constituents are also far more conservative than the American average.

They are also Southerners, and every Southern Democrat is brought up to hold presidential impeachments in holy horror. This is because the attempted impeachment of President Andrew Johnson was regarded as a direct, viciously partisan assault on the people of the South.

Yet with such a district, which he knows so well, Chairman Mills has report-

edly been telling friends that half his constituents now want the President to be impeached. Apparently what turned the district around decisively was not the long series of stories growing out of the Watergate business. The pro-impeachment 50 per cent of Representative Mills' constituents were mainly enraged by the President's low income tax payments.

If this is a general finding, moreover, it will surely have some effect on the scrutiny of the President's record as a taxpayer by the Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation.

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**F**URTHERMORE, if other members of the House have found much anger back home concerning the presidential tax matter, an unfavorable report by the joint committee will have the effect of a hammer blow.

The President has two things going for him, however, that can just possibly change the outlook importantly. On the one hand, almost all senators and representatives queried thus far, have found strong sentiment at the grass roots that there are more important things to do than to impeach the President.

In addition, a vote on the President's impeachment, whether for or against, will be the most dangerous single vote every senator and representative has ever cast. That will not make for haste.