

Resignation Talk, Speculation Seem To Lose Strength

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The speculation that President Nixon might soon resign, and the pressure from some Capitol Hill Republicans that he do so, appeared to be quieted yesterday in the wake of repeated White House statements that Mr. Nixon intends to see his impeachment ordeal through.

More Democrats and Republicans added their voices to the preponderant view that a resignation cutting short the constitutional process for considering a President's removal from office would not serve the nation's best interests.

Also, the White House turned down a proposal by one Republican senator to offer a resolution putting the Senate on record against resignation—a device to call the Democrats on their near-unanimous view that Mr. Nixon should not be pressured out of the White House.

According to GOP sources on Capitol Hill, Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.), a former Republican National Committee chairman, made the proposal to Tom C. Korologos, the White House's liaison chief with the Senate, after consulting with several other Republican senators.

But the idea was rejected, these sources said, possibly out of concern at the White House that such a sense-of-the-Senate resolution might trigger a long and unpredictable floor debate.

The phenomenon of Republicans calling for a Republican President to resign, while Democratic leaders deplored the effort, has been a source of embarrassment to some Republicans on the Hill as well as to the White House. The proposal would have sought

on a bipartisan basis what the White House had been trying to do on a partisan basis—rally support for Mr. Nixon to stand fast.

On Tuesday, Korologos approached Sen. Norris Cotton (R-N.H.), chairman of the Senate Republican Conference and others to try to get a group of Republican senators to say jointly they opposed a presidential resignation.

But Cotton balked and the idea apparently was abandoned. Cotton and most other Republican senators have said they think Mr. Nixon should stay on and enable the impeachment process to go forward.

Sen. Charles H. Percy (R-Ill.) yesterday joined those who have said they won't call on Mr. Nixon to quit. So did Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.), who said resignation now would be "a grave mistake." The President, he said, is entitled to a fair trial, the country is entitled to know the facts and both Congress and the country will be strengthened by use of the constitutional procedures for possible removal of a President.

Among the factors cited by some Republicans on the Hill easing the pressure for a presidential resignation was Mr. Nixon's cruise on the Potomac Tuesday night with nine House members as guests.

One of them, Rep. Elford A. Cedarberg (R-Mich.), reported later that the President had said he was aware of the calls for his resignation but "emphatically stated that he wasn't guilty of anything, that he didn't know anything about Watergate and that he absolutely wasn't going to resign."