

# Sen. Jackson Forecasts Delay on Impeachment

Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.) said yesterday he has a "serious question" as to whether the impeachment process can be completed in 1974.

Sketching a possible scenario for reporters at a breakfast session, Jackson said the "Senate won't get the matter until Labor Day at the present rate."

Then, assuming the House votes impeachment, Jackson said the President would probably ask for a 30- to 60-day period in which to prepare for his trial in the Senate. That would delay the trial until just prior to the November congressional elections.

In that event, he said, "you've got the situation of a lame duck Senate trying the President of the United States."

"I just can't see the United States Senate taking up the trial right before an election," Jackson said. Citing both legal and political problems he concluded: "If it is not adjudicated by noon on Jan. 3, 1975, it might all have to start over again."

Legally, Jackson argued, impeachment is a substantive matter that dies with Congress. "The Senate is a continuing body insofar as its rules are concerned," he said, "but not when it comes to its bills."

Politically, he argued, "there will probably be a hundred new members of the House saying 'we have a say in this thing.'"

In view of this prospect, Jackson said "serious consideration" should be given to proposals for a special or recall election. He did not flatly advocate the idea, noting there is no recall election provision in the Constitution, but he said it should be explored "if two-thirds of the House and Senate find the President incapable of administering the affairs of office."

Asked about the effect of a refusal by the President to obey a Supreme Court order to turn over subpoenaed tapes to the Watergate special prosecutor, Jackson said "then you would have the strongest of all charges that could be brought against a President of the United States," perhaps speeding the impeachment process.