

# Impeach Odds At White House

## Washington

President Nixon has been told by his advisers that the House Judiciary Committee probably will vote a bill of impeachment, informed sources said yesterday.

The sources said Mr. Nixon has forbidden his spokesmen from relaying his own views on the outcome of the committee's deliberations, although one source indicated he shares his advisers' expectations.

The sources talked with newsmen after a White House spokesman reported — then later retracted — that both Mr. Nixon and his lawyer believe the committee will recommend impeachment.

At the daily White House news briefing, deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren said Nixon lawyer James D. St. Clair maintains it is "unrealistic to believe the committee will not vote out some sort of bill."

Warren said St. Clair "had informed the President of his assessment." When asked whether the President agreed with that assessment, the spokesman replied: "Yes."

About an hour later, St. Clair disputed Warren's statement. "I don't know how he could form such a judgment," St. Clair said. "I met with the President this morning and he didn't say any such thing to me."

St. Clair added it is "quite presumptuous" to predict whether the committee will vote an impeachment resolution.

When word of St. Clair's reaction to the Warren statement reached the White House, Warren hurriedly issued a retraction of his own comments.

"I made a mistake," Warren said, because of "a mis-

understanding" of what he thought St. Clair had said.

"The President does not feel it appropriate to predict the outcome of the proceedings before the House Judi-

ciary Committee," Warren said. But he stated a White House view that "if the matter reaches the floor of the House of Representatives impeachment will not be voted."

A short time later, presidential press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler went before television cameras on the White House lawn to also say Mr. Nixon does not feel it appropriate to predict what the committee will do.

"We are all hopeful the committee will assess the evidence before them" and agree with Mr. Nixon's contention that he is innocent, Ziegler said.

Then, giving what he called a personal view, Ziegler said, "I will not be surprised if the House Judiciary Committee does vote out a bill of impeachment," although he predicted such a bill would be defeated by the full House.

Ziegler refused to state Mr. Nixon's own assessment of likely committee action. When prodded by reporters, he said "the President is confident ... that anyone who looks at the evidence with an open mind ... will come to the conclusion he has not committed an impeachable offense."

Later in the day, Mr. Nixon flew to California for a two-week stay at his home at San Clemente.

Associated Press