

# Nixon Assumes 'Underdog' Role

Washington

President Nixon was described by his spokesman yesterday as "an underdog" in the congressional impeachment move.

White House deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren, reading from notes apparently approved by the President, said that Mr. Nixon faces an "uphill struggle — it is a political struggle," but that because it is political, the President has a chance to win.

This was an indication that Mr. Nixon is preparing to fight the impeachment effort on political grounds.

Previously, his spokesmen stressed the evidence and the legal aspects of the case, arguing that when congressmen weighed the evidence, they would vote to acquit the President.

"We recognize the situation as it exists in the

House," Warren said, presumably referring to statements by congressional leaders that an impeachment vote is expected. "We face an uphill struggle, but in a political struggle, you have a chance to win."

While the White House is not ready to concede that Mr. Nixon faces defeat in the House, he said, "If you had to make odds, you'd have to put the President in the role of underdog."

Meantime, a group of Republicans formally introduced on the House floor a resolution calling for censure of the President rather than impeachment.

The author of the resolution was Representative Paul Findley of Illinois.

"Hearings of the Judiciary Committee and developments in the courts have, I believe, clearly established gross negligence, maladministration and moral insensitivity on the part of the President," Findley said. "And yet I question whether the evidence establishes convincing proof of wrongdoing on the part of the President personally of such magnitude as to warrant removal from office."

The move was opposed by Democratic leaders and a number of Republicans and thus is not considered likely to be adopted.

*New York Times*