

McCloskey to Quit

Marine Reserves

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Rep. Paul N. "Pete" McCloskey, a leading Republican critic of President Nixon's war policies, said today he intends to resign as a reserve officer of the Marine Corps.

Calling it a "hard decision," the sophomore Republican congressman from San Mateo, said his position in Congress makes it impossible for him to swear complete allegiance to the Commander in Chief as required of military officers.

"Congress' job is (to provide a) check and balance to the President," McCloskey said in a KGO-Radio News interview, "... not blind loyalty."

McCloskey has been in the

Marines since 1948 and holds the rank of reserve lieutenant colonel.

At one time, McCloskey said, he thought "the greatest thing a man could ever achieve was to be a captain in the Marine Corps and command a rifle company . . . The idea of being a citizen soldier was the highest thing a man could do."

Now, however, McCloskey said he feels his position in Congress, and his increasing opposition to the Indochina war are no longer consistent with his military status.

McCloskey is in the Bay Area for a series of appearances including a speech at tomorrow's peace demonstration at the Polo Field in Golden Gate Park.