

Dellums: 'Would Vote to Impeach'

WASHINGTON—(UPI)—Rep. Ronald Dellums of Berkeley, Calif., said today he would vote to impeach President Nixon because of his Vietnam war policies and that he will decide soon whether to introduce an impeachment resolution in the House.

Dellums, a Democrat, thus becomes the first member of Congress to say publicly he would vote to impeach the President.

However, he said that because of the seriousness of the step he will consult other members of Congress before introducing an impeachment resolution.

Firm Reply

Asked if he would have any hesitation in voting to impeach Nixon, Dellums said firmly, "Not at all."

"You would vote to impeach the President?" a newsman asked.

"Yes," replied Dellums, squinting in the brilliant sunshine on the steps of the U.S. Capitol where he received a petition from two Harvard University students calling on the House to impeach the President.

The petition, bearing signatures of 405 students of the Harvard Law School, were presented to Dellums by John Corwin, 24, of Long Island, N.Y., and Robert Gippin, 23, of Akron, Ohio, now living in Cambridge, Mass.

The Grounds

When asked the grounds for impeachment of the President, Dellums cited the petition, which claimed that Nixon is without constitutional sanction to conduct the war in Indochina.

Asked whether war crimes allegedly done by American

—Turn to Page 8, Col. 2

—From Page 1

soldiers in Vietnam might be further grounds, Dellums said, "There is no question that America is committing war atrocities there and that could be another basis for impeachment."

Dellums recently conducted unofficial hearings on U.S. war crimes but has since refused to provide the House Armed Services Committee with transcripts of the testimony from former GIs who said they witnessed war crimes. Dellums said he would give the transcript to the committee only if it would guarantee no prosecution against members of the armed forces.

Dellums said the Nixon Administration "is totally committed to a military victory in Southeast Asia" and he rejected a newsman's question that the war was initially begun during the Johnson administration.

Dellums said Nixon has made it "perfectly clear" that he considers the war his responsibility now.

Asked how many votes there would be in the House for impeachment, Dellums said there was growing opposition to the war and "there are several congressmen who I think would be interested in impeachment."

He noted that Rep. Paul McCloskey (R-San Mateo County), had raised the question.

McCloskey has said he mentioned the possibility of impeachment earlier this year to spur public debate over whether the President exceeded his Constitutional powers in waging war and that it should be considered only if the President's position on the war cannot be changed or Congress fails to take action that would end the war.

But McCloskey has never

said specifically that he favored impeaching Nixon, as Dellums did today.

The Harvard petition says the Tonkin Gulf Resolution was not a declaration of war and it has since been repealed and "the appropriation of funds does not legally amount to a ratification of the war. The war in Indochina is therefore illegal and unconstitutional."

It adds that "massive public protest, as well as congressional acts such as the Cooper-Church Amendment, have all failed to restrain the continuing escalation of the war."

It cites constitutional provisions by which the President may be impeached by Congress for "high crimes and misdemeanors" which are incompatible with the public safety or which may bring the government into disgrace, and says the question must be "squarely faced."