

SFChronicle

Impeachment

MAY 11 1971

Dellums Weighs Charges on Nixon

Washington

Representative Ronald V. Dellums (Dem-Calif.) said yesterday that President Nixon should be removed from office because of his Vietnam war policy and that he is considering introducing impeachment charges in the House.

Dellums, who became the first congressman to say publicly that he would vote for impeachment, said he expects to reach a decision "in the next week or so" on whether to try to oust Mr. Nixon from the White House.

The Black liberal, serving his first term in the House, condemned the administration's Indochina policy as he stood on the House steps and accepted 405 signatures of Harvard law students urging that Congress initiate impeachment proceedings.

Dellums said he would hesitate "not at all" to vote for impeachment, but that introducing a resolution calling for impeachment is a more serious matter that deserved more consideration.

McCLOSKEY

He noted that the Americans for Democratic Action had urged Mr. Nixon be impeached and that Representative Paul M. (Pete) McCloskey, (Rep-Calif.) had proposed starting a national debate over whether Mr. Nixon should be impeached.

Furthermore, Dellums said, "there are several congressmen who I think would be interested in impeachment."

He conceded, however, "I'm not sure it could win."

Under the constitution, impeachment charges must be brought and voted for by the House and tried before the Senate, which would sit as a jury with some member of the House acting as a prosecutor.

PLANS

Dellums said he plans to talk to at least 20 House

members before making up his mind about an impeachment resolution.

Standing on the same steps where he spoke to antiwar demonstrators last week — for which some of his colleagues accused him of abetting violence — Dellums said he believes there is ample evidence that Mr. Nixon has overstepped his legal bounds in conducting an undeclared war.

Also, he said, "there is no question America is committing war atrocities there (Indochina) and that could be another basis for impeachment."

"... this administration is totally committed to a military victory in Southeast Asia."

United Press