Laird Quits, Urges Speed On Impeachment Question

Special to The New York Times

Melvin R. Laird resigned today is a difference." as President Nixon's chief Mr. Laird, who was Mr. domestic adviser and said that Nixon's Defense Secretary for domestic adviser and said that he believed the House of Rep-

ing Government service next month and taking a position with the Reader's Digest Association. His resignation has been expected for some time.

tionship with the press is very important. It is very important not to let that become an antagonistic relationship."

The relationship between Mr.

mid-March to review and evaluate all the evidence.

"I don't think there should be a decision to postpone that vote just to have it closer to the election," Mr. Laird said, implying that Democrats were prepared to delay the vote so as to harm Republican candidates in the 1974 Congressional races.

Mr. Laird's departure, which he delayed until sometime next month at the President's request, was reminiscent of that of John B. Connally earlier this year. While both spoke nice words about the President, they made it clear he had not taken their advice about how to put the Watergate scandals behind him.

Mr. Laird sought to explain today how he urged the Preident last summer to release the Watergate tapes and other papapers, a step that Mr. Nixon took only in recent weeks after his credibility with the public sank and there were widespread demands for his resignation or impeachment.

Mr. Nixon received conflicting recommendations, Mr. Laird said. He said that he had given the President political advice while his attorney had recommended that he claim the right to withhold information under the doctrine of executive privilege and not surrender the doctrine of executive

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 - legal advice," he said. "There

four years, also let it be known, in an oblique way, that he difresentatives should vote no fered with Mr. Nixon in another

resentatives should vote no later than March 15 on the question of impeaching the President.

"I think a vote would be a healthy thing," Mr. Laird told a news conference in which he announced that he was leaving Government service next told a result to the service next to the service next to the service and the service important. It is very important

been expected for some time.

The former Wisconsin Representative said he was convinced that the House would vote against recommending that the Senate try Mr. Nixon for high crimes and misdemeanors. "I am a pretty good vote counter," he added.

Political Move Implied

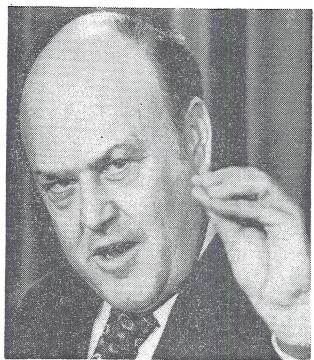
Now that the President is turning over to Congress and the courts documents and other information they had sought information they had sought the House Judiciary Committee, which has the impeachment question under consideration, would have enough time by mid-March to review and evaluate all the evidence.

"I don't think there should be a decision to postpone that work in the local water and the press has frequently been described as antagonistic.

Mr. Laird joined the White House staff June 6, to replace John D. Ehrlichman as chief domestic adviser and to help the Administration repair the damage of Watergate.

He said today that at the time a number of Administration bills were stalled in Congress and that he was proud its say that, because of his long service in that body, he had been able to get some of them moving. He named the agriculture, manpower, health, education and other bills and the compromise that ended the American bombing of Cambodia.

Decision to Depart



Melvin R. Laird announcing his resignation from President Nixon's staff yesterday at the White House.