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McCloskey 'Edict' on Watergate

Washington

One week to the day after Republican Congressional leaders endorsed his election, Congressman Paul McCloskey (Rep-San Mateo) yesterday urged the Nixon Administration be "rejected" if it doesn't disclose the facts about the Watergate affair.

The maverick Republican's office here was quick to declare that "this does not constitute an endorsement of (Democratic presidential nominee) Senator McGovern."

But in a speech on the floor of the House, McCloskey said flatly:

"Unless this Administration is willing to fully disclose the complete operations of the Committee to Re-elect the President with respect to the Watergate incident . . . I suggest that it should be rejected on November 7th as unworthy of the trust of the American people."

LETTER

One week ago yesterday, McCloskey's candidacy for election in the new 17th (San Mateo-Santa Clara counties) District was urged in a "Dear Fellow Republican" letter.

The letter was signed by, among others, House Minority Leader Gerald Ford, of Michigan.

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Ford yesterday did not comment directly on McCloskey's floor speech, but issued a statement saying:

"For my part I am completely satisfied with the FBI's investigation of the Watergate incident. The FBI conducted the most extensive, intensive and exhaustive investigation possible into this matter.

". . . As I said before, I am satisfied."

'REGRET'

McCloskey, in his speech, said, "I say these things with regret. I have been a Republican all my life . . . The activities of the Committee to Re-elect the President, however, are such as to impel all of us to disassociate ourselves from that committee and those to whom they have reported in

the White House until a full explanation is made."

McCloskey is running in a district that has Democrats leading Republicans in registration.

His Democratic opponent, attorney Jim Stewart, has been informed by United States Senator John Tunney (Dem-Calif.) that a poll Tunney had seen shows Stuart running two points ahead of McCloskey, three weeks before election day.

A spokesman for Congressman Bob Wilson, of San Diego, head of the Republican National Congressional Committee, told The Chronicle: "We endorsed Pete because we want to get a Republican majority in the House. We were aware of his differences with the President."

McCloskey's spokesman said the Congressman's speech was "aimed at getting the Administration to disclose these facts, and definitely not designed as an endorsement of McGovern."

Our Correspondent