

McCloskey Still in GOP

Congressman Paul N. McCloskey, who ran against President Nixon in some GOP presidential primaries last year, announced here yesterday that he plans to stay in the Republican party.

He had recently filled out a change-of-address registration form, stating his affiliation as "decline to state," which because of a technicality was not accepted by the registrar of voters.

Yesterday, however, he filled out a new one, listing his affiliation as Republican, and said:

"The greatest political challenge today is to try to restore faith in the Republican Party.

"There is really no definable difference between the two major parties, and all I

can do is to serve one and try to make it more honest, make it work, and make it effective."

McCloskey said that the Justice Department "should be given time" to investigate the Watergate scandal before Congress even thinks of setting up a board of inquiry concerning impeachment of Mr. Nixon.

But, he said, an independent investigator should "place the President under oath, just like any other witness, or potential witness, to a crime."

Mr. Nixon, the Congressman said, should be asked about the Watergate burglary, its subsequent cover-up, the "political sabotage" and collection of campaign funds.

At a speech yesterday morning before the Northern California Home Furnishings Representatives Association at the Western Merchandise Mart, McCloskey said:

"This (Nixon) Administration has probably been the most corrupt in American history."

He said that he foresees further revelations "particularly about the Commerce Department, when the Secretary (Maurice Stans) was running that department as an adjunct to the fund-raising operation (of Mr. Nixon's re-election committee).

"We don't need to deify our President," he said. "This country will run whether the President goes to jail or not."