

# Impeachment Debate Plan Squashed

By Mary Russell

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An attempt to discuss possible impeachment of the President on the floor of the House of Representatives was squashed last night when the House adjourned after an hour or so of parliamentary wrangling.

The attempt was made by Rep. Paul N. (Pete) McCloskey (R-Calif.), who had obtained a one-hour special order for a debate he said was "to encourage a tempered discussion of the impeachment process."

In the end it was McCloskey himself who made the motion to adjourn because, he said, he wanted a "reasonable debate and it would not be a reasonable debate if we added the burden of making 144 reasonable people wait five hours while we pulled back members from Clarksburg or Pitts-

burgh or wherever they had gone."

McCloskey's attempt to speak came at the end of a long day of debate over other matters.

It was 8:50 p.m. by the time McCloskey got up to speak and he was interrupted by Rep. Earl Landgrebe (R-Ind.), who questioned that a quorum was present. The quorum was called and 144 members answered the roll, 74 short of the 218 needed for a quorum.

Rep. Joe D. Waggoner (D-La.) then moved that the House adjourn. Rep. Bella Abzug (D-N.Y.) called for a vote on the motion and the vote was 143 to 9 against adjournment. Majority Leader Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill and Majority Whip Rep. John McFall (D-Calif.) voted with seven others for adjournment.

Rep. Samuel Stratton (D-N.Y.) then moved that the sergeant-at-arms be ordered to

bring in absent members, but McCloskey meanwhile moved for adjournment and the move was adopted by a voice vote.

McCloskey said he didn't doubt Landgrebe's motives in calling for adjournment but said he had "heard a lot of talk in the Republican cloakroom about preventing my speech from being heard."

McCloskey said he had his speech placed in the Congressional Record, and other members would have five legislative days to place their speeches in the record and after that he "would see whether we should get another special order to discuss impeachment."

No Republican leaders were on the floor during McCloskey's speech and he said he did not know why, though he added, "Evidently the conservatives didn't read my

speech." If they had, he said, they would have realized he was not calling for impeachment.

McCloskey would not say if he knew of any specific impeachment resolutions being prepared, but said he thought the President's May 22 speech on Watergate and statements by the President's press secretary Ron Ziegler that having the President appear before a grand jury was constitutionally inappropriate had led some Democratic members to reconsider putting in such a resolution.

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