

UROC Meet Split on Nixon

By Don Martinez

There's a tense little convention meeting in Emeryville this weekend.

A proposed resolution calling on President Nixon to resign because of the Watergate scandal has set conservative against conservative at the quarterly meeting of the United Republicans of California.

The 150 UROC delegates at the Holiday Inn maintained a normal convention schedule, with speeches and even a satirical revue on the Watergate scandal.

"Disaster"

But there was an undercurrent of tension as pro and anti president forces lobbied amidst representatives of the 12,000 member organization.

"Should this resolution pass, it will be a disaster," predicted State Chairman Paul Magnani.

The resolution to be considered by the UROC Board of Governors this morning "isn't responsible," he said. "It would destroy lines of communication between UROC and Republican legislators on a state and national level."

Magnani said the resolution is being pushed by Santa Rosa and Oakland units of UROC with strong support of the Orange County chapter.

"Ultra-Conservative"

The people behind it are ultra conservative, he charged, and are chiefly upset about President Nixon's improving relations with China and Russia.

UROC members supported conservative Congressman John M. Ashbrook over the president in last year's primary election, parting company with Nixon over what they called his "leftward drift" in domestic and foreign policies.

Despite this ideological antagonism, Magnani said, it is highly unlikely his organization will become the first Republican group to openly advocate the resignation of the President.

Even if the board of governors were to vote favorably on the resolution, he

said, it would still have to be ratified by UROC's 500 local units.

During yesterday's session, the pro Nixon forces were highly visible, but it was difficult to find someone seeking his resignation who would talk on the record.

One delegate, who asked that his name be withheld, predicted a strong parliamentary move to block discussion of the resolution and said, "if that happens, you might see the first Republican riot in history."

Mrs. Margaret Wiens, governor of the Santa Cruz-Monterey unit, felt "none of us should be discussing Watergate at all at this point.

All the evidence isn't in and I'm not prepared to prejudge anybody, especially the President."

Mrs. Billie Bowles of Walnut Creek said she felt the President was being framed by double agents.

And Magnani, though predicting the Watergate investigation will probably lead to cleaner politics, said he still feels it is "a charade. They are running a second class house break-in into a full fledged TV program."