

Congress Urged to Act Now

ACLU Plea to Impeach

New York

The American Civil Liberties Union urged Congress yesterday to begin impeachment proceedings against President Nixon, based on six grounds "affecting civil liberties."

It was the first time in the 53-year history of the organization that its board of directors has voted a resolution seeking a president's impeachment.

"Virtually every administration has violated civil liberties," said ACLU executive director Aryeh Neier, "but this administration has been more consistent, more blatant in its violations."

Neier said at a news conference that 65 members of the 85-member ACLU board met Sunday and voted "overwhelmingly" in favor of the resolution, which the organization has transmitted to every member of the House of Representatives.

The more than 200,000 ACLU members across the nation will be asked to urge their representatives to act on the resolution, which says in part:

"There is now substantial public evidence of President Nixon's participation in high crimes and misdemeanors; and . . . these acts have violated the civil liberties of the people of the United States and the rule of law."

Specifically, the resolution says that Mr. Nixon:

- "Personally approved" a plan on July 25, 1970, for "domestic political surveillance and espionage by such methods as burglary, wire-tapping and eavesdropping, mail covers and military spying on civilians."

- "Usurped the war-making powers of Congress" by bombing Cambodia and "deliberately concealed the bombing" from the nation.

- Established a "personal secret police (the 'plumbers')" in the White House,

"operating outside the restraints of the law, which engaged in criminal acts including burglaries, warrantless wiretaps, espionage and perjury."

- Along with a principal aide "offered a high federal post to the presiding judge during the Ellsberg trial and, for a prolonged period, he withheld from the court knowledge of the burglary of the office of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist."

- Interfered with the administration of justice by his "effort to limit the scope" of the FBI's investigation of Watergate.

- "Perverted and attempted to pervert the operation of various federal agencies, including the Department of Justice, the National Security Council, the Secret Service, the State Department, the Defense Department and the Central Intelligence Agency by engaging them in political surveillance and in the falsification of information made available to Congress and the American people."

(The unprecedented resolution voted by the group's board of directors was read to newsmen at a morning press conference in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago and New York.

(Howard H. Jewel, the California representative on the ACLU national board, said impeachment would "clear the air."

(We are not suggesting that anyone should level criminal charges against the President," said Jewel.)

Associated Press