

A.C.L.U. ASKS MOVE TO IMPEACH NIXON

Six Grounds 'Affecting Civil Liberties' Cited by Head

By ALFRED E. CLARK

The American Civil Liberties Union called yesterday for the impeachment of President Nixon and said such a move was backed "overwhelmingly" by the group's board of directors.

In a news conference at its office, 22 East 40th Street, Edward J. Ennis, chairman of the A.C.L.U., said the President's impeachment was being sought on six grounds "affecting civil liberties."

Mr. Ennis cited "specific proved violations of the rights of political dissent; usurpation of Congressional war-making powers; establishment of a personal secret police which committed crimes; attempted interference in the trial of Daniel Ellsberg; distortion of the system of justice, and perversion of other Federal agencies."

The organization's executive director, Aryeh Neier, said he believed the A.C.L.U., which has a national membership of upward of 200,000, was the first organization of its kind to put forward such a proposal.

He said the A.C.L.U. had no Representative or group of legislators in mind to carry out the necessary action in the House. Copies of the proposed resolution are to be sent to the Representatives over the weekend, and Mr. Neier said it was the hope that its contents might serve as the basis for a bill of impeachment.

Representative Bella S. Abzug, Democrat of Manhattan, has already sought to open an inquiry into whether there are grounds for impeaching President Nixon over the Watergate affair. Representative Paul N. McCloskey Jr., Republican of California, started a speech on June 6 on the same subject but was halted by a technicality.

On July 31, Representative Robert F. Drinan, Democrat of Massachusetts, introduced a resolution calling for the impeachment of Mr. Nixon "for high crimes and misdemeanors." It does not appear likely that the resolution will be acted upon soon.

The A.C.L.U. resolution which was passed by the organization's board by a 10-to-1 margin, called for the House of Representatives to initiate proceedings against Mr. Nixon. In its preface, the resolution said:

"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 by law."

News conferences on the proposal were held yesterday also by chapters of the A.C.L.U. in Boston, Milwaukee, Denver, Los Angeles and San Francisco.