

# What Laird Said On Impeachment

## Washington

White House domestic adviser Melvin R. Laird said yesterday he has told President Nixon to expect an impeachment move in Congress if he rejects a Supreme Court order to produce the Watergate tapes.

"But," Laird said, "I also told him I think the vote would be negative," that is, against impeachment, in the House of Representatives.

Laird did not go beyond those statements in a meeting with a group of reporters, but he is the first high White House official to discuss publicly the possibility of a serious impeachment effort.

The Constitution says that impeachment is voted by a

majority of the House, with conviction requiring a two-thirds vote by the Senate.

Mr. Nixon has lost in both the district and circuit courts on his contention that he is immune from a requirement that he turn over tapes of White House conversations to the Watergate grand jury. He has hinted that he might refuse to obey anything except what he calls a "definitive" Supreme Court decision.

Laird also disclosed that "several weeks ago" he had discussed with House minority leader Gerald R. Ford (Rep-Mich.) the possibility of Vice President Spiro Agnew resigning and Ford replacing him.

*Washington Post*