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# League of Cities -- Cox Is the Topic

By George Murphy

The League of California Cities opened its 75th annual convention here yesterday, but Topic A was Washington, rather than municipal problems.

The events of the weekend in the capital overshadowed the work set out for the 5780 delegates to the convention — called "the largest meeting of city officials in the world" by the league's executive director, Don Benningham.

There were panels on land use, housing, the environment, revenue and taxes — but the principal speakers, a couple of San Francisco lawyers, spoke to the delegates about President Nixon, Archibald Cox and impeachment.

The speakers were Health, Education and Welfare Secretary Caspar Weinberger, Republican, and Mayor Joseph Alioto, Democrat.

## AGREEMENT

Interestingly enough, both agreed that there should be no impeachment proceeding against the President at this time.

But, of course, for different reasons.

Weinberger: "I don't see the slightest grounds for impeachment in the dismissal of an insubordinate employee of the executive branch (Cox). It is not a high crime or misdemeanor."

Alioto: "An impeachment fight would not be good for this country. I believe this matter should be handled by the courts. Judge (John) Sirica has the legal right to ap-

point a prosecutor to investigate (the continuing Watergate and other matters), and I would hope that preferably he would name Cox."

## DISAGREEMENT

The Mayor and the Cabinet member disagreed sharply on one matter:

Alioto: "There is no question in my mind that Richard Nixon is now in contempt of court."

Weinberger: "No, I do not think he is in contempt of court. He has offered a compromise that has been agreed to by the chairman and vice chairman of the Senate committee."

## ISSUES

The league's convention continues today and indications are that it will concentrate more on State problems, particularly Governor Ronald Reagan's tax initiative, Proposition 1.

Economist John Kenneth Galbraith, who will be the luncheon speaker, is expected to oppose the initiative. Reagan will speak tomorrow and there's no question what side he'll take.

But the convention also will be asked to act today on an "emergency" resolution proposed by Palo Alto Mayor Kirke Comstock and San Luis Obispo Councilman T. Keith Gurnee, urging Mr. Nixon's resignation or, failing that, his impeachment, arising from the Cox case. Both Comstock and Gurnee known."

On the Cox case, Reagan said in Sacramento yesterday he would not comment because "it is relatively unimportant."

"President Nixon faced the same problem that confronted President Truman during the Korean War (the MacArthur firing).

"What is important is that the President has agreed to make available the pertinent information contained in the tapes. Now we should all have patience until the content of those tapes is made know."

Later in the day, at a press conference of the Northern California Chapter of Americans for Democratic Action, State Senator Nicholas Petris (Dem-Oakland), said:

"I think impeachment is long overdue. There's a long list of acts of defiance by the President . . . his definition of law is what suits his purpose."

At the same conference, Assemblyman John J. Miller (Dem-Berkeley), said "we have reached the point where the President is going to put aside the laws and play chess with Congress . . . we are moving fast toward an American dictatorship."

Congressman Charles E. Wiggins (Rep-West Covina) said he supports the President: "You can't be President and have a man under you tell you to stick it in your ear," he said in a statement from Washington.

Republican State Chairman Gordon Luce, of San Diego, said Mr. Nixon "hasn't committed a crime at this point, but there may be a time when it would be appropriate for impeachment to come up."