

Nixon's Switch on Speech to Nation

Washington

President Nixon, in another sudden turn in the Watergate crisis, canceled his scheduled television address to the nation last night and planned instead a news conference at 6 p.m. PDT today.

A presidential spokesman said that the change was made because Mr. Nixon was preoccupied with the crisis in the Middle East.

Congressional sources suggested, however, that he has taken the advice of Republican leaders who have been telling him he is more believable in the give-and-take of a news conference than in "sit-down monologues written on the mountain at Camp David."

The White House had announced Tuesday that the President would go on national television and radio last night to explain his role in the events of the last few days that included his abolishment of the office of the special Watergate prosecutor, the departure of the two top officials in the justice Department and his sudden decision of Tuesday to turn

over Watergate tape recordings to U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica.

There were indications that the President and his staff were under considerable strain as a barrage of criticism of Mr. Nixon's role in the developments continued, even after the President agreed to surrender the tapes in an effort to turn back opposition and moves for impeachment.

One problem was the growing pressure from Con-

Back Page Col. 1

OCT 25 1973

Nixon on

TV Today

SFChronicle

President Nixon's news conference on Watergate will be carried live at 6 p.m. today by KRON-TV, Channel 4, KPIX-TV, Channel 5, KGO-TV, Channel 7, and KQED-TV, Channel 9. The broadcast will also be heard over radio stations KCBS and KGO.

From Page 1

gress that Mr. Nixon appoint a new special prosecutor to replace Archibald Cox. Mr. Nixon fired Cox Saturday night because Cox had refused to abide by presidential order to refrain from seeking the tapes and other White House records and had said he would ask the

More Nixon news on Pages 11-13

courts to hold the President in contempt.

Republican leaders in the Senate urged the President yesterday to appoint a replacement to Cox. While there has been no direct word of how Mr. Nixon feels about such a proposal, his assistants have indicated that the White House position was against such a move.

AIDE

Bryce N. Harlow, counselor to the President and one of Mr. Nixon's links to congress, said at a breakfast with reporters, "I don't know what the President will do. My own opinion is that this (a special prosecutor) is desperately poor government."

He said the proposal carried "the subterranean notion that the Justice Department can't be trusted" to carry out a complete, impartial investigation.

Harlow, expressing the predominant White House view, said that misunderstanding and misinformation about the President's motives had led to the tumultuous events of last weekend.

"Mr. Cox forced out Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson and his deputy, William D. Ruckelshaus," Harlow said. "The President didn't."

Since Mr. Nixon has decided to surrender the tapes, Harlow said, he believes that the move to start impeachment proceedings against the President will never be reported out of the House Judiciary Committee.

New York Times