

# Cranston Backs Nixon On Crisis

By George Murphy

U.S. Senator Alan Cranston said here yesterday he does "not subscribe" to the opinion that President Nixon's alert of the nation's armed forces was contrived to divert the public's attention from his possible impeachment.

"I think the Mideast problem is a very serious situation," Cranston told a press conference after a speech at the Concordia - Argonaut Club.

But, the California Democrat said, "I can see how some people might fear that an international crisis was made to appear more serious than it is."

## QUESTION

The question of a false crisis was raised at Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's Washington press conference. It was vigorously denied by Kissinger.

Cranston emphasized his admiration for President Nixon and Kissinger for "their handling of the Mideast situation firmly and creatively at a time when the President has other things on his mind."

In his speech, Cranston said he did not feel that cutting off of Arabian oil supplies to the U.S. would have much effect.

"We need not and should not determine our foreign policy on whether or not we get Mideast oil," he said.

## IMPEACHMENT

Cranston maintained his position of not giving an opinion on the possible impeachment of the President because as a senator he would act as juror were the House to vote impeachment — in effect, indict Mr. Nixon.

But he said the mood of the Congress appears to show that "demands for impeachment are still very strong in the Congress and across the country."

Cranston said his soundings show that Mr. Nixon's surrender of the White House tapes to U.S. District Judge John Sirica has had no effect on the sentiment for impeachment.