

Nixon's Spirit Impresses Republicans

Washington

Buoyant, combative President Nixon yesterday gave Republican congressmen the impression that he is determined to answer publicly the many allegations of scandal against his administration.

"Almost everyone said, my God, I wish ten reporters had been there," said Representative Dan Kuykendall of Tennessee after Mr. Nixon's meeting with 78 House GOP members. "The candor, the obvious straightforward honesty of his answers — he answered in a way that made it obvious you could check up on him very quickly."

The congressmen broke into applause during the breakfast meeting in the White House when Mr. Nixon said emotionally:

"I'm not going to walk away from my job."

IMPRESSED

Even some of Mr. Nixon's strongest critics within the party were impressed by his determination to stay in office and fight back against the charges that have engulfed his administration.

"I was impressed by his state of physical and emo-

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tional health," said Representative Paul N. McCloskey of California, who briefly challenged Mr. Nixon for the GOP presidential nomination last year. "He looked to me like he relished the combat he was in."

But McCloskey added that there was "an air of unreality" about the meeting because the President was "adopting the posture that the opposition to him is politically and partisanly motivated rather than motivated by a search for truth."

McCloskey said also that Mr. Nixon was not asked hard questions at the meeting and that it was unclear that he was "really going to make a clean breast of things."

SENATE 14 NOV

In the Senate, meanwhile, Republicans who had met with the President Wednesday night said Mr. Nixon had accused former attorney general Elliot L. Richardson of misleading the Senate Judiciary Committee in sworn testimony about his role in the dismissal of Archibald Cox, the first Watergate prosecutor.

Although some accounts were that Mrs. Nixon had declared flatly that Richardson 'lied,' the White House denied it and one of the senators said the President had not used the word but had clearly implied that the former attorney general had not told the truth.

Many of the Republican congressmen who attended yesterday's session praised the President for his candor.

"This meeting was the best damned thing he's done in a long time," said Representative William Ketchum of California, a freshman who has often been critical of Mr. Nixon's responses on Watergate.

ATTITUDE

Representative William S. Mailliard said, "I sense a change in attitude that he now seems anxious to be forthcoming that I did not feel in the past."

Representative Leslie Arends of Illinois, the retiring Republican whip, called Mr. Nixon's performance "very straightforward" but said he didn't know whether public appearances of the President would "put an end" to

credibility problems for everyone."

Mr. Nixon followed up his partisan meeting with a dinner at the White House for 50 to 60 moderate to conservative Democratic congressmen. He also held a third consecutive pre-dinner meeting at which drinks were served to Republican senators, who then had an opportunity to ask questions of the President.

EFFORT

By today, Mr. Nixon will have met with all 234 Republican members of the House and Senate in his extensive effort to convince the Congress of his innocence.

Some Democrats thought that Mr. Nixon's meetings were a crude attempt to influence congressmen who would have so sit in judgment of him in impeachment proceedings.

"It is deplorable that the President should invite members of Congress to White House functions in order to curry favor with his prospective grand jurors," said representative Thomas O'Neill, the Democratic leader in the House.

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