

WXPost DEC 4 1973

# Impeachment Drive Pressed at Meeting

By John Hanrahan

Washington Post Staff Writer

The opportunity for removing President Nixon from office may slip away unless someone influential in Congress assumes leadership of the drive and grassroots opinion from all shades of the political spectrum is mobilized, speakers at an impeachment conference here said yesterday.

Some of the speakers also saw impeachment as a possible means to restructure the nation's political, economic and military system, but one top union official warned that an effort to revamp the system would scare off the moderates and conservatives needed for a successful impeachment effort.

"If it's going to be a whole new world . . . then a lot of people will say we'd better stick with the crook we've got," said Steve Schlossberg, general counsel for the United Auto Workers Union.

The conference, which continues today, is sponsored by the Institute for Policy Studies, a left-leaning, Washington-based think tank which was on the White House "enemies" list that came to light during the Senate Watergate hearings last summer. About 40 pro-impeachment persons attended the conference at the Dupont Plaza Hotel.

Schlossberg, one of the panelists yesterday, lamented what he said was the absence of support for the impeachment drive from such traditional liberal organizations as the NAACP, the American Jewish Congress and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Schlossberg said liberals, radicals and moderates should be willing to make alliances with the right to oust Mr. Nixon.

Arthur Waskow, a resident fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies and author of numerous books and articles on political and social issues said impeachment was too important to be left in the hands of "the little club" in Congress. He proposed that "a week of emergency town meetings" be held across the country to call for impeachment.

Disagreeing with Schlossberg, Waskow also said that legislation to reduce presidential power and to "enforce the Bill of Rights" was needed so that the impeachment effort is not "merely of lopping off the political head of the would-be dictator, but strengthening the democratic institutions whose weakness has invited the bid for dictatorship."