

Demo Leader in House Urges Nixon to Resign

Washington

House Democratic leader Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. said yesterday that President Nixon's resignation "would be in the best interest of the nation economically."

Others in Congress joined the Massachusetts Congressman in urging the president to step down voluntarily rather than face impeachment proceedings. But senior Democrats and Republicans differed publicly with O'Neill or called his statement premature.

The resignation talk spread on Capitol Hill as the 93rd Congress returned from a month-long recess.

The resignation discussion followed the declaration on Friday by Representative Wilbur D. Mills, (Dem. - Ark.) that Mr. Nixon should resign "in the near future"

rather than subject the nation to an impeachment proceeding.

O'Neill told newsmen just before the House convened at noon that he believed the president has "lost the credibility of the nation."

Speaker Carl L. Albert of Oklahoma, the senior Democrat in the House, refused to comment on the resignation issue. He said he would "have to think a long time before I'd recommend to the president that he resign."

Both John J. McFall, the House Democratic whip, and John J. Rhodes, the House Republican leader, said that any resignation suggestions are "premature" until the House Judiciary Committee determined whether Mr. Nixon might have committed impeachable offenses.

New York Times