



WILLIAM A. TIMMONS  
... urges quick action

## Probe Unit Dilemma Seen By Nixon Aide

By Carroll Kilpatrick  
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President Nixon's chief legislative aide said yesterday that there is a good chance the House Judiciary Committee may not vote on a bill of impeachment this year.

William E. Timmons, the White House liaison officer with Congress, said it is in the interest of Democrats to string out the impeachment controversy though this year's general elections in November.

"A lot of Democrats don't want to face the impeachment issue," Timmons said at a meeting with newsmen.

"It is in our interest to have a speedy resolution of the matter," Timmons said.

He predicted that if there were a House vote now, there would be no more than about 100 members, all Democrats, who would vote for impeachment.

The Timmons estimate of the House sentiment against impeachment is one of the lowest yet made. Last week, Melvin R. Laird, just before retiring as a presidential counselor, predicted that Mr. Nixon would win an impeachment vote by between 75 and 125 votes.

Timmons argued that if the Democrats on the Judiciary Committee, which is considering a bill of impeachment against the President, see that they don't have the votes on

the floor to win they would not want to force a floor vote.

The committee Democrats will not want to vote a bill of indictment along strict party lines, or without at least five or six committee Republicans supporting them, he said. There are 21 Democrats and 17 Republicans on the committee.

Timmons said he was not surprised by the 410 to 4 vote by which the House Wednesday gave the committee unlimited subpoena power to obtain information.

He said he expected the President to be "very reasonable in dealing through his counsel" with the committee.

But he said it was his personal view that the President should not agree to testify before the committee because that would be demeaning. The President might reply to written questions, Timmons said.

In discussing the possibility that there will not be a Judiciary Committee vote this year, Timmons said Congress will be eager to adjourn in September for the November elections.

If the committee "came in with unreasonable demands on the President and he said he could not give the information the committee could blame the President for the delay," he said.

Also, he said, there could be along delay while a dispute between the committee and the President is adjudicated through the courts.

The House voted Wednesday 342 to 70 against a Republican motion to require the committee to fix an April 30 deadline for its report to the House floor.

An individual member of the House could force floor consideration of impeachment at almost any time by calling for an immediate debate. But, as Timmons noted, it would not serve the purpose of the President's critics to follow that route unless there appeared to be a fair chance of winning a majority vote for indictment.

Any Republican who votes for impeachment "will probably lose 15 or 20 per cent of his supporters in a general election," Timmons estimated, enough to assure the defeat of almost every GOP candidate.

If the committee does not vote a bill of indictment before Congress adjourns, the issue could be raised again in 1975. However, the entire procedure would have to begin from scratch, as all pending business in the House will be terminated with the end of the present session.