

Mansfield Sees Votes to Impeach

Washington

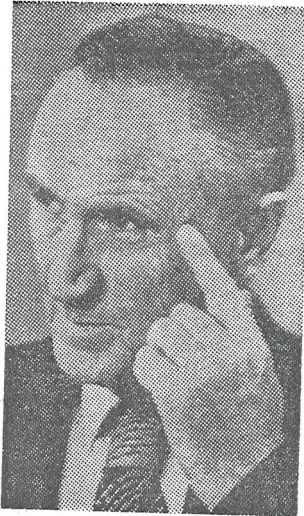
Declaring President Nixon's "dilatatory tactics" have rebounded against him in Congress, Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield said yesterday that he now believes "the votes are there" in the House to impeach Mr. Nixon.

The Montana Democrat told newsmen that if the House orders the President to stand trial in the Senate, it should begin within two weeks, be televised to the country and go forward to a conclusion regardless of the political calendar.

"The election will be secondary," the Majority Leader declared, in rejecting a suggestion that the trial might be postponed past the November midterm voting.

Taking a notably more critical tone toward Mr. Nixon than has been his custom, Mansfield said firmly that "I would not approve of" legislation to grant the President immunity from subsequent prosecution for any acts involved in the impeachment trial.

Such legislation has been



SEN. MANSFIELD
More critical of Nixon

proposed by House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Wilbur Mills (Dem-Ark.) as a step toward encouraging Mr. Nixon to resign voluntarily from office.

Mansfield said he is opposed to both resignation and immunity.

"The matter should take its regular course," he said. "We should not have another Agnew situation," refer-

ring to the agreement by which former Vice President Spiro Agnew resigned in return for the government waiving all but one charge against him.

At breakfast with reporters, Mansfield said "I don't know" what the House will do on the impeachment question, "but I talk to House members and they think the votes are there."

He attributed this shift, in part, to the "dilatatory tactics" he said Mr. Nixon and his lawyers have used in objecting to the House Judiciary Committee's requests for additional evidence.

Quoting the President's contention that the Judiciary Committee "wants to bring a U-haul trailer and haul out" all the White House records," Mansfield said. "That might be a good idea. It would speed things up."

In a separate interview, Senate Minority Whip Robert P. Griffin (Rep-Mich.) said "the likelihood" of the President's impeachment by the House "seems much greater today than it did a month or two ago."

Washington Post