

Tower Sees Impeachment Uncertainty

Another Democratic senator predicted House impeachment of President Nixon yesterday and the chairman of the Senate Republican Policy Committee said he was no longer certain of the votes to block that action.

A day after Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) said House members had told him "the votes are there" for impeachment, Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) said "it appears to me that . . . the majority of the members of the House now (are) for the impeachment charges."

Sen. John G. Tower (R-Tex.), the GOP Policy Committee head, told reporters that two weeks ago House Republican leaders were estimating only 150 votes for impeachment — 68 short of a majority in the House.

Tower said that "the atmosphere of confrontation" that has developed in the last two weeks between Mr. Nixon and the House Judiciary Committee has damaged the President's standing, and he could no longer tell what the situation was.

The committee and the President are in disagreement about additional materials it has requested for its investigation.

Humphrey, interviewed on the NBC "Today" program (WRC), said it was "sheer demagoguery" to claim, as Mr. Nixon has done, that the Judiciary Committee is trying to take a truckload of documents from the White House.

"They're asking for precise and specific documents and tapes," Humphrey said. "What they're asking for can be put into a supermarket cart, rather than a truck."

Meantime, Mansfield told reporters that there are not sufficient votes in the Senate now to convict the President. **"As of now,"** he said, emphasizing those three words, "he would have one-third on the Senate plus one." Conviction in the Senate requires a two-thirds vote.