

WYD Post APR 2 1974

# Mills Sees Enough Votes For Nixon Impeachment

## House Tally

By Richard L. Lyons  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Rep. Wilbur D. Mills (D-Ark.) whose ability to read the mood of the House made him its No. 1 legislator, said yesterday he believes a majority of the House is now ready to vote to impeach President Nixon.

"There is no doubt in my mind that there are enough votes for the articles of impeachment in the House," said Mills in an interview televised by the Public Broadcasting Service. He said he based this on talks with House colleagues from all parts of the country.

Mills said he detected a change in the House mood in recent weeks to a pro-impeachment position. He attributed this largely to "what the membership feels is lack of cooperation on the part of the White House" with the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment inquiry. "It's this, I think, more than anything else that may have intensified the feeling within the House," he said.

Mills also said he felt the President's strategy of attacking the committee for requesting more information than he felt it needed has backfired.

Mills, chairman of the  
See **IMPEACH**, A8, Col. 1

## Michigan Test

By Lou Cannon  
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Nixon has decided to risk a test of his political popularity in an up-for-grabs Michigan special congressional election, a well-informed Republican source said yesterday.

The source said Mr. Nixon has tentatively decided to appear in Michigan's 8th District on April 10 at the invitation of Republican nominee James Sparling, who last year worked briefly at the White House.

The invitation provoked an immediate dispute within the Michigan Republican Party. Saginaw GOP Chairman Robert Grant, who wants Republican candidates to put distance between themselves and the President on the Watergate issue, said the Nixon visit would not be helpful.

"Neither Jim's cause nor the party's cause will be served by the President coming here," Grant said. "I don't want any part of it."

The decision was regarded by Democrats as virtually certain to turn the election into a referendum on Mr. Nixon, even though such other prominent Republicans as Vice President Ford, Illinois Sen. Charles Percy and Michigan Gov. William  
See **PRESIDENT**, A8, Col. 4

## IMPEACH, From AT

Ways and Means Committee and vice chairman of a House-Senate committee investigating Mr. Nixon's income tax deductions, was the first leading House member flatly to predict that the President would be impeached.

The drift in that direction has been clear. From an unthinkable proposition last summer, impeachment became a live matter of inquiry after the firing of Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox. Last winter the stock answer of House members was that they were waiting to hear the evidence. Now there is a feeling among many that the evidence is there, just waiting to be taken from a tape or lifted out of the Watergate grand jury's briefcase.

Mills' own position, when asked if he is ready to vote

for impeachment, is still "Not yet. I've got to see the evidence." He wants evidence of action or inaction by the President "that is the equivalent of a crime."

Mills said his "great worry" was that a majority of the House will vote to impeach the President, but that the Senate will fail to obtain the two-thirds vote needed to remove him from office, and that this would leave Mr. Nixon powerless to govern and the country bitterly divided.

It was for this stated reason that Mills in January and again last night said that if it appeared the House was going to impeach him, the President should resign. Mills repeated his offer to try to pass legislation granting the President immunity from prosecution for Watergate involvement or other matters if he does resign.

In related statements:

• Senate Majority Whip Robert C. Byrd (D-W. Va.) called it "stupid" of the White House to say that the House Judiciary Committee should draw up impeachment charges against Mr. Nixon before requesting more information. "Common sense would say that the House can't draw up a list of charges without the evidence," said Byrd. "The evidence is presumably in the hands of the people against whom the charges will be brought."

• House Speaker Carl Albert told a meeting of labor leaders here that Democrats will win more than 300 of the 435 House seats in November. This would be a gain of more than 55 seats, a landslide turnover for an off-year election. Watergate has helped elect Democrats in three GOP districts this year.

## PRESIDENT, From A1

Milliken also will campaign for Sparling.

However, Republicans said that Democrats were making Mr. Nixon the main issue in the election anyway and that Sparling would now have the benefits of the President's support as well as the liabilities.

In his opening statement the night he won the nomination, Democratic candidate Robert Traxler said: "We are going to send a message to Washington and I am going to be your messenger."

Some Republicans had been fearful before Sparling's nomination that he was particularly vulnerable to an anti-Nixon campaign because he worked for 10 weeks as a White House congressional liaison in 1973.

However, a poll taken by Market Opinion Research showed Saturday that Sparling trails Traxler by only seven percentage points, with enough voters undecided to determine the outcome.

Sparling is particularly strong among the rural voters of Michigan's thumb region, where farmers are enjoying record prices for soybeans and other cash crops, and Mr. Nixon is expected to give emphasis to his farm policies in his 8th District appearance.

The urban centers of this eastern Michigan district are Saginaw, where unem-

ployment in the General Motors plants exceeds 10 per cent, and Bay City, a Democratic stronghold added to this historically GOP district two years ago.

In a statement in which he announced the visit, Sparling said that he was making no judgment of the President's guilt or innocence and that if he is elected "any proof of wrongdoing on his behalf will draw my firm vote for impeachment." Sparling also said he was "no more a Nixon man than a McGovern man" but thought that Mr. Nixon should face the people.

"I call to the President to get out of the White House



**JAMES SPARLING**  
... invites President

where he is now isolated and face the people," Sparling said.

From a White House point of view, the prospect of campaigning in the Michigan district was described by one GOP source as "having more pluses than minuses."

The source pointed out that Mr. Nixon was running between 25 and 30 per cent in popularity polls and that a good showing in the 8th District would suggest to Republican congressmen facing an impeachment vote that the President is more popular than the polls indicate.