

Temporary Resignation

By Carroll Kilpatrick
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Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R-N.Y.) suggested yesterday that President Nixon might resign temporarily until impeachment proceedings against him are completed. The White House immediately rejected the suggestion.

Deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren said the President had clearly stated his position against resignation and his determination to carry out his presidential duties.

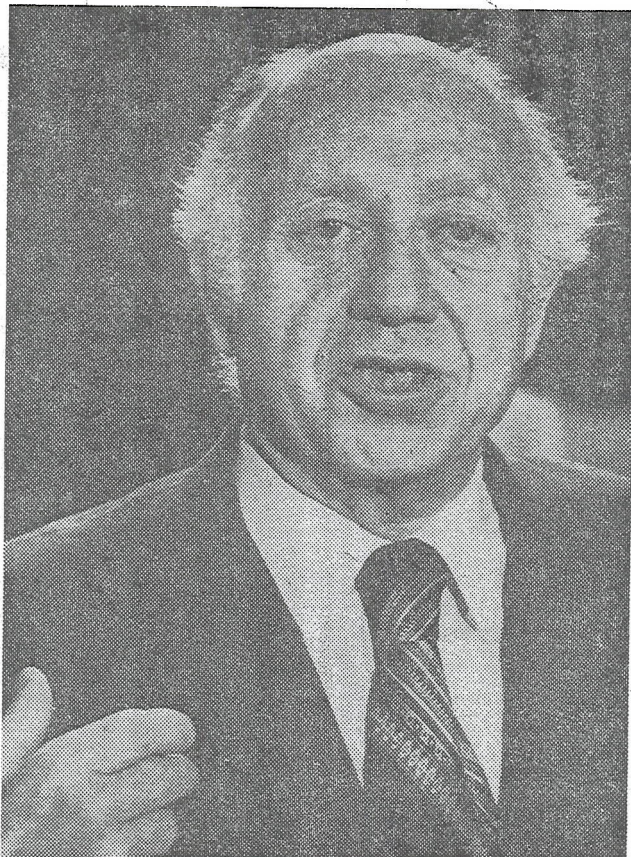
Warren's statement came as officials made it clear that Mr. Nixon would attend memorial services in Paris Saturday for the late President Georges Pompidou.

Mr. Nixon told Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) that he intended to visit Europe at least twice this year, the senator reported after a breakfast meeting with the President.

And at a meeting attended by Soviet cancer specialists, Mr. Nixon said: "I am looking forward to seeing your leadership when I go to Moscow this summer."

Warren was repeatedly asked whether the President would go to Moscow if impeached by the House or if impeachment proceedings were pending. While not giving a precise response, Warren made it clear that the President intends to carry out his plans whatever Congress may do.

Warren rejected the suggestion that the President might be negotiating from weakness if he visits the Soviet Union at



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a time when Congress is considering whether to remove him from office.

Javits told a news conference that it would be "very tragic if the President began to play impeachment politics" with domestic or foreign policy, and he said there are indications that he is doing so.

The senator said the President has an option under the 25th Amendment to resign temporarily if he believes "that because of proceedings against him he cannot carry out his duties."

Javits emphasized that he was not urging the President to resign temporarily. "I am

merely saying that is one of his options," he said.

The amendment provides that the Vice President temporarily assume the duties of the office until the President determines that he is qualified to resume his duties.

Last month, Javits' conservative colleague, Sen. James Buckley (R-Cons.-N.Y.) said the President should resign.

If the President cannot negotiate "free of personal problems, he has an option under the 25th Amendment," Javits said. If the President does go to Moscow he should promise that any agreement reached there would be submitted to Congress for approval, Javits said.

Asked about Javits' comments, Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) said, "Impeachment politics should not be played. I don't think they are."

Scott said he saw no sign that the President has changed his position on major bills in an effort to woo members of Congress. If the President goes to Moscow he should go "with the full support of the American people," Scott said.

Mansfield said that at his breakfast meeting with the President foreign policy was the chief subject and that impeachment was not discussed.

The President is very much in favor of the Mansfield proposal to grant most-favored-nation tariff treatment to the People's Republic of China, Mansfield said.

The President has strongly advocated most-favored-nation treatment—which in effect means the same treatment ac-

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corded others—for the Soviet Union, but so far has been rebuffed by Congress. It would take congressional action to accord equal-tariff treatment for China.

Mansfield said that Mr. Nixon was pleased with the results achieved by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger on his visit to Moscow last month. That evaluation is contrary

to comments attributed to members of the Kissinger party after it left Moscow. But Mansfield said on the basis of what he knew that he agreed with the President's assessment:

"We are still planning the Soviet trip this year," Warren said at the White House. "The European trip depends on decisions that the European community makes."

Soviet sources have indicated that the presidential visit is planned for June, but the President has said only that it will be "this summer."