

Two Views of Impeachment Odds

Washington

Representative Wilbur D. Mills (Dem-Ark.) said yesterday he believes there are enough votes in the House to impeach President Nixon, and suggested that even if the Senate vote falls short of the required two-thirds majority to convict, Mr. Nixon might want to resign.

But Representative John J. Rhodes, the House Republican leader, said he had a gut feeling there were not enough House votes to impeach Mr. Nixon — although he had not made a count.

Mills, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said that should most of the Senate vote to convict Mr. Nixon — but fall short of the two-thirds majority needed to find him guilty — the President should resign "in the country's best interest."

Mills, interviewed on ABC's "Issues and Answers," said if this happened, "there you have Congress itself speaking against him, but not by a sufficient vote to impeach him.

At that point I think consideration must be given by him to the country's interest the country's interest as to as to whether it's best from the country's point of view that he resign."

Also, Mills said, Mr. Nixon might want to resign if impeached by the House, but before he is tried in the Senate.

I would think that if he can reach a conclusion that it is in the country's best interest to prevent this traumatic experience of going through a trial of impeachment in the Senate, he could, I think, resign and leave with fewer scars and leave less of a schism in the American public.

Rhodes also said he did not think the ruling that the President owed \$467,000 in back taxes and interest would hurt the chief executive's standing with Congress and the people.

Interviewed on NBC's "Meet the Press," Rhodes

said, My viscera tells me that the votes for impeachment are not there.

He said, I have not made a nose count, I don't think anyone should . . . the representatives cannot take action until the evidence is in.

Rhodes said the President has done what any ordinary, prudent man would do: asked someone to help him in making out his tax returns.

Rhodes, who is up for reelection this year, said, I have already invited the President to my district and the invitation will stand.

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