

Common Cause Asks TV on Impeachment

Common Cause recommended yesterday that any Senate impeachment trial of President Nixon be opened to live television and that all efforts to lobby senators during the proceedings be made public.

The 323,000-member citizens action group has actively lobbied in the House for an open inquiry before the Judiciary Committee and if necessary, publicly televised house sessions on the committee's recommendations. The action yesterday extends that Common Cause position in the event the House actually votes to impeach the President.

A five-point policy statement on conduct of an impeachment trial was adapted by the governing board after a two-hour discussion. Twenty-nine members voted for it, one voted no and another dissented on the question of televised sessions. The Common Cause board has 61 elected members.

The document approved by the board says in part:

"1. As a general principle, the Senate rules should aim at insulating senators from ex-

pressions of political pressure from organized groups or their lobbyists while not precluding reasoned discussion or consultation by senators with citizens on an individual basis."

"2. Senators should be required to maintain a public daily log of all contacts with them or their staffs and to maintain a public file of correspondence regarding impeachment. The log should also include all contacts with the President or his representatives in the White House or executive branch on any subject, and what was discussed

"3. House managers of impeachment, other congressmen, the President, and their respective staffs should be prohibited from making any direct or indirect ex parte (informal) contacts with any senators on the subject of impeachment."

"4. Live televised coverage of the Senate trial should be permitted."

"5. Senators should refrain from publicly commenting on the evidence until they have voted."