

# TELEVISED TRIAL OF NIXON IS URGED

Common Cause Also Asks  
Senate to Avoid Politics if  
Impeachment Is Voted

By ANTHONY RIPLEY

WASHINGTON, April 19 — Common Cause urged today that the Senate hold an open, televised trial of President Nixon if the House votes to impeach him.

The national citizens' lobbying group also called for Senate rules to avoid heavy political pressure in such a trial. It declared the issues should be decided on evidence brought before the Senate and not on what was described as "naked partisan pressure" applied to the Senators in their lobbies and offices.

John W. Gardner, chairman of Common Cause, and the group's national staff presented their position today at an emergency session of the board of governors of the 323,000-member organization.

Forty of the 60 governors took part in the meeting and endorsed the recommendation with only one dissenting vote.

Humberto Cintron of New York City said he thought "all these dudes ought to be sequestered—lock them in a room."

Dr. John Sonneland of Spokane, Wash., voted for passage but said he was against television coverage.

Mr. Gardner noted that Common Cause had not taken any position on impeachment but chose instead to "monitor the process" and "have it as open as it can be."

He said the Senate trial was the "next stage" and that the Senators would be dealing in a unique political and judicial atmosphere.

David Cohen, a Common Cause vice president, said that "if there is to be a trial," the Senate Leaders have indicated it would come within several weeks after the House acts.

## Ruling on the Facts

A policy statement approved today directs the national staff to lobby the Senate along the following lines:

¶ "Senators should decide on the President's culpability on the basis of what constitutes an impeachable offense and the facts of the case."

¶ Senate rules should "aim at insulating the Senators from expressions of political pressure from organized groups or their lobbyists."

¶ Senators "should be re-

quired" to keep public daily logs, with summaries of conversations, on all contacts made with them or their staffs about impeachment.

¶ Both sides—the President's men and the House floor men handling impeachment—should be prohibited from making any

one-sided contact with any Senators on the subject of impeachment.

¶ Live television coverage should be permitted but Senators should refrain from comment on the evidence until after they vote, to prevent them from

making statements outside the Senate chamber.

The governors also approved a resolution barring partisan political activity on the part of any governors or staff members.