

Inflation Called Top Problem

Chicago

Most of the Democratic governors at a national conference here think President Nixon should leave office, all agree that inflation is the nation's No. 1 problem, and Senator Edward Kennedy was the only Democrat mentioned as potential candidate for president in 1976.

A poll of 11 governors who arrived here yesterday for the start of a two-day Democratic Governors Conference, found the state executives in unhesitating agreement that inflation is the nation's major problem, but few had any idea on what to do about it.

The governors mostly agreed with Utah's Calvin Rampton's admission that, "I have no idea what can be done about it."

There was less agreement on what President Nixon's fate should be. Five governors said the President should resign. One, Jimmy Carter of Georgia, said he should be impeached and five others said they would wait for further evidence.

All agreed that Watergate has cast a pall over state as well as federal government, undermining confidence in public officials.

The governors agreed Republican candidates will suffer in the elections this fall because of Watergate.

Kennedy was generally acknowledged to be the frontrunner for the 1976 presidential nomination, but most governors said it was too

early to make a prediction.

Those interviewed were Carter, Wendell Ford of Kentucky, David Hall of Oklahoma, Marvin Mandel of Maryland, Patrick Lucey of Wisconsin, Milto Shapp of Pennsylvania, Philip Noel of Rhode Island, Wendell Anderson of Minnesota, Daniel Walker of Illinois and Thoma P. Salmon of Vermont.

United Press