

Nixon Seeks Senate Conservative Aid

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WASHINGTON, April 28 — President Nixon, who was preparing today to step up his campaign against impeachment, is directing his appeal increasingly to the minority conservative bloc in the Senate.

The strategy is being pursued on two levels—first on policy and legislation, and second on public appearances and speeches across the country.

Mr. Nixon was at Camp David today working on the answer he will make Tuesday to the House Judiciary Committee's subpoena for additional tape recordings and documents. Later in the week, he will make a Western speaking tour, with appearances scheduled in Arizona and Washington.

While it has been apparent for some time that he has been trying to hold the support of conservatives generally, recent developments have indicated that he is putting a particular focus on conservatives of both parties in the Senate, who could save him from conviction in an impeachment trial.

Although neither Mr. Nixon nor his assistants have enunciated this strategy publicly, sources in both the White House and the Congress say that it is taking place.

The conservative minority in the Senate—largely Democrats from the South and Republicans from the West—is considered crucial to the President. Under the Constitution, a two-thirds vote is needed for an impeachment conviction. The conservative bloc could supply the 34 votes needed for acquittal.

Constituents Sympathetic

President Nixon's best hope is said to lie with the conserv-

atives because their constituents generally are more sympathetic to him and more reluctant to upset the powers of the presidency than those of Republicans.

More and more, the Nixon White House is faking on the flavor of a Presidential engagement in a national political campaign to extend his time in office. Although Mr. Nixon is pictured by his spokesmen as being constantly engaged in running the Government, they do not conceal the fact that a great deal of time is spent by him and his staff on Watergate defense matters and on planning and carrying out his campaign for public and Congressional support.

On education and policy, there have been a number of indications of an extraordinary White House appeal to Senate conservatives.

White House Agreed

When Senator James O. Eastland, Democrat of Mississippi, introduced a bill to pay several million dollars in compensation to Mississippi chicken farmers who had been ordered to destroy more than six million broilers contaminated by a pesticide, the Agriculture Department at first opposed the measure as a bad precedent. The White House overruled the department and quietly supported the bill, which passed the Senate Tuesday by a vote of 56 to 31.

Gerald L. Warren, deputy White House press secretary, said that although the White House had taken no "formal position" on the bill it had, in a spirit of compassion for the farmers, agreed to the measure in the belief its effect would be limited. In the past, a more usual pattern has been for a department to favor such spe-

cial legislation and for the White House to overrule it in the broader public interest.

While pressures have been building for the United States to ease relations with Cuba, President Nixon has instructed Secretary of State Kissinger, for the time being at least, to stick by the current hard-line policy against trade and diplomatic negotiations. Congressional sources said it was widely believed that Mr. Nixon did not want to ruffle the Senate conservatives, who generally are opposed to any change in relations with Cuba.

Revisions Delayed

President Nixon's proposed welfare revisions, which would be a step toward a guaranteed income, have been repeatedly delayed. Caspar W. Weinberger, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, promised a few weeks ago that the proposals would be sent to Congress in April. Now, his department is saying they will go up in May, but other Administration sources say there may be further, if not indefinite, delay. Conservatives are strongly opposed to the proposals.

On campaigning, Mr. Nixon's speaking schedule has been heavily weighted in favor of states that have conservative Senators. He spoke Thursday in Jackson, Miss., with both Senators Eastland and John C. Stennis on the platform. He plans to speak this week in Arizona, which has two conservative Republicans in the Senate, Barry Goldwater and Paul J. Fannin. On May 11, he is scheduled to speak at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. That state also has two conservative Republican Senators, Henry L. Bellmon and Dewey F. Bartlett.