

# Waldie Says Hearings Can Be Slow

By George Murphy

Had the first day of the House Judiciary Committee hearings on the impeachment of President Nixon been televised, a committee member said here yesterday, "the country would have fallen asleep after the first half hour."

Nonetheless, Congressman Jerome Waldie (Dem-Antioch) said, he still believes the hearings should be open to the public.

Waldie, a candidate for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination in next month's primary election, discussed the historic moment after a meeting with members of San Francisco Consumer Action at 312 Sutter Street.

"John Doar (majority counsel for the committee) is a fine lawyer, but when you hear him read for two straight hours, you have trouble staying awake."

Waldie said that he believes the committee will probably send a series of subpoenas to the White House for specific material, "when a gap in the evidence demands it."

He was asked by a radio reporter whether he felt Mr. Nixon should resign, and answered:

"I believe the country would be best served by President Nixon's leaving office, and I am not concerned as to whether this is done by resignation or by the constitutional process of impeachment."

Waldie spoke earlier, as did another Democratic gubernatorial candidate, Assembly Speaker Bob Moretti, on the problems of the California consumer.

Moretti, at a Townhouse press conference, proposed a new electricity use rate structure in which small users would pay less per kilowatt than the major consumers.

Such a system, he said,

should be adopted by the Public Utilities Commission.

And the commission, Moretti emphasized, should be composed of more consumer-oriented members.

The next governor, he said, will have two appointments to the commission to make in his first year in office.

"If I make those appointments, they will act from the point of view of the public, rather than the utilities."

Waldie, in his talk to the consumer action group, said

he feels the answer to proper actions by regulatory agencies is campaign financing reform.

"Government becomes effective in regulating, if the people on the boards are not owned by those they regulate," he said.

He said that as governor he would "give the Department of Consumer Affairs enforcement powers of its own. Then it wouldn't have to go (for enforcement) to the Attorney General who is, after all, an elected official."