

Notes on Nixon's Cruise

Washington

"If I was guilty, I'd get the hell out fast, but I'm not guilty."

Notes taken by Representative G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery (Dem-Miss.) attribute that statement to President Nixon Wednesday evening during a three-hour cruise on the yacht Sequoia with Montgomery and ten other conservative congressmen. 29 MAY

The lawmakers described the President as elated over the Israeli-Syrian cease-fire agreement, concerned about inflation and other economic troubles — and a bit reluctant to discuss the impeachment issue.

Montgomery said Mr. Nixon did express concern about the impact on future presidents of "such a drastic step" as impeachment, and described his defense in the House Judiciary Committee inquiry as "basically a fight for what the office stands for."

The President cited the "great balance" among the three branches of government, Montgomery said, and feared that "if something happens now, it would throw that balance off and this could happen to every President who disagrees with Congress."

As for the Mideast peace settlement, Montgomery said of the President's role:

"I got the impression that he did a lot of work himself with Israel and Syria."

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