

Mayors push urban programs

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The Nixon Administration will not promote vitally needed urban programs while it is embroiled in Watergate and the impeachment issue, the president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors said yesterday.

Democrat Roy Martin Jr., of Norfolk, Va., opened the 42nd annual meeting of the conference by declaring the nation needs "a domestic Kissinger" who can put impetus behind such programs as housing, transportation and urban renewal.

Martin told a news conference that Vice President Gerald Ford is the logical person to assume that role, but has not done so. The vice president traditionally has served as the administration's liaison to state and local government.

Ford was invited to attend the five-day session, but his office sent word that he could not. The vice president made a series of speeches in California Thursday and Friday and was playing golf in Monterey as the conference opened Saturday.

Martin and the host mayor, Republican Pete Wilson of San Diego) appealed to the Nixon administration and the Democrat-controlled Congress to expedite the impeachment issue, end their preoccupation with



ROY MARTIN JR.
Heads mayors' unit

Watergate and break the logjam of urban legislation.

"The business of governing America has fallen between the chairs of the administration and the Con-

gress, and that situation can no longer be tolerated by the American people," Wilson said.

Another Republican, Mayor Ralph Perk of Cleveland, a candidate for the U.S. Senate, said he disagreed with the theory that there is a crisis in federal government that can only be solved by "immediate impeachment and conviction, resignation, or forget it."

Perk said Nixon's resignation "would be bad for the country. It would destroy the presidential government."

About 350 mayors, the majority of them Democrats, are attending the conference.

Mayor Alioto is the conference vice president and is expected to be elected Wednesday to succeed Martin.

Martin said, "The crisis of the presidency and the inactivity of Congress have combined to create a vacuum in the national government.

"At times it appears as if the entire federal government has come to a halt."

Martin added that he did not expect the mayors to approve any resolution calling for impeachment, saying he thought it would be harmful and divisive to consider that issue.

After the opening news conferences, the five conference committees went into closed sessions to begin considering more than 40 proposed resolutions. Most of them deal with the need of the cities for more federal assistance on a variety of fronts, including community development, housing, the environment, energy problems and crime.