

AUG. 23 VOTE SET ON IMPEACHMENT

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Tentative Date Scheduled to Follow Two Weeks of Debate in the House

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WASHINGTON, June 27—The Democratic leadership of the House, anticipating a recommendation by the House Judiciary Committee for the impeachment of President Nixon, has tentatively scheduled a House vote on impeachment for Aug. 23.

Representative John J. McFall of California, the House majority whip, said today in an interview that the Aug. 23 vote would follow two weeks of debate in the House.

In addition, well-placed Congressional officials said Democratic leaders were already taking steps to prepare for the debate on the House floor.

The sources said the whip was telephoning Democratic members to seek support for a parliamentary vote in the House to suspend the normal rule allowing each member of the Judiciary Committee five minutes to interrogate witnesses. The sources also said that the parliamentary vote scheduled for July 1 would be a test of the sentiment for adoption of a similar measure to limit impeachment debate on the House floor.

If adopted, the change would mean that House members debating impeachment would have to be recognized to speak for a specific and limited time, thus preventing an attempt to prolong the impeachment debate.

Changes Possible

Mr. McFall said that the Aug. 23 date was tentatively set on advice that the House leadership had received on the progress of the Judiciary Commit-

tee investigation, but he added, "We've had changes in our schedule before."

Representative Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. of Massachusetts, the House majority leader, offered a further clue to the timing of a House vote on impeachment in a conversation with a reporter today.

Told that the Judiciary Committee members were engaged in partisan bickering today, Mr. O'Neill replied: "But they're on schedule. That's the main thing."

According to present plans, the Judiciary Committee should conclude testimony from witnesses on July 12. A debate in the committee is scheduled for the week of July 15, with the committee vote planned for the week of July 22.

The committee is then expected to take about 10 days to write its report. Mr. McFall's timetable calls for the report to be sent to the House Rules Committee during the week of Aug. 15.

Two weeks of debate on the floor of the House would culminate in a vote on Aug. 23, according to present plans.

If a majority in the House votes for impeachment, the President's lawyers and the House lawyers who will argue the case against the President are expected to be given about a month to prepare their cases for the Senate trial.

Senator Mike Mansfield of Montana, the Senate majority leader, has said he would expect an impeachment trial to last about two months.

"This all could be affected by the Supreme Court decision on the tapes," Mr. McFall said, referring to the appeal by Leon Jaworski, the special Watergate prosecutor, for additional tapes from the White House. The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments in the case on July 8.

"If the Supreme Court says that the tapes must be given up, I would assume that the President would comply, and we would have to reassess our schedule," Mr. McFall said.