

Congressman Reports 4 White House Contacts

WASHINGTON, July 16 (UPI)—Representative R. Lawrence Coughlin, Republican of Pennsylvania, said today that he had received four "unusual" contacts from the White House in the last week that could be interpreted as "stroking" in exchange for his support of President Nixon when the House votes on impeachment.

Mr. Coughlin, who was careful not to accuse Mr. Nixon directly of improper activity while disclosing the contacts to reporters, said the first unusual occurrence involved a recent news tip from an Administration source.

The tip, he said, was on a "newsworthy item relating to Pennsylvania," and this was the first time in his six years in Congress "that I received information before anyone else."

The news tip was followed by a July 10 telephone call from the White House Congressional liaison's office inviting Mr. Coughlin and his wife to

Asserts Invitations Could Be Viewed as 'Stroking' for an Anti-Impeachment Vote

sit in the "President's box" at the Kennedy Center for a Peter Niero concert. He sent his 5 regret on July 11, asked for a rain check and was invited the next day to sit in the President's box for another Kennedy center performance.

He sent his regrets for the second invitation as well, only to receive another call this week inviting him and his wife to "join the White House staff for dinner and cocktails" on the Presidential yacht Sequoia tomorrow night.

Never on Yacht

Mr. Coughlin said the only other time he has ever been invited to the Kennedy Center was in October, 1971, and he has never been invited to join the President on his yacht.

"Let me be very clear that I am not impugning anyone's motives," he said, but he added that he considered the invitations highly unusual.

After the Sequoia invitation, he said he called Max Friedersdorf, special assistant to the President for Congressional relations, to reject the overtures as "inappropriate."

Mr. Coughlin said he did not know how many other Republican Congressmen who could be considered "swing votes" on impeachment had received similar invitations, but at least one other Pennsylvania Republican Representative E. G. Shuster, attended a dinner party on the Sequoia last week.

Mr. Shuster emerged from the party saying that he was less inclined to vote for impeachment than before his yacht cruise and he would consider other issues such as Mr. Nixon's leadership qualities in addition to evidence in weighing his vote.

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