

MANSFIELD BACKS 6-DAY TRIAL WEEK

Impeachment Plan Would
Bar Campaigns by Senators

By R. W. APPLE Jr.

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 23—
Senator Mike Mansfield said today that he would advocate six-day-a-week sessions in the event of a Senate trial of President Nixon, with no time off for campaigning by Senators up for re-election this fall.

Mr. Mansfield, the majority leader, said "the people would expect" a prompt decision. As for members who would be denied the chance to campaign because of the six-day sessions, he commented, "They'll have Sundays off."

Outlining his preliminary trial plan to a group of reporters at breakfast, the Montana Democrat emphasized that he was not suggesting that impeachment by the House of Representatives — and thus a trial — was certain.

He also noted that his decisions on timing and procedure would be subject to ratification by the full Senate.

Research on Matter

But Mr. Mansfield said that he and the Democratic whip, Senator Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia, had been studying Senate rules and precedents as well as books on impeachment by Raoul Berger of Harvard University and Charles L. Black Jr. of Yale.

If the House Judiciary Committee votes impeachment, he added, the Senate Democrats plan to hire "a lawyer or other

man of ability" to advise it on trial procedures.

Mr. Mansfield said that he would "lean over backwards" to give the President and his counsel, James D. St. Clair, "the benefit of every reasonable doubt." That would include, he said, giving Mr. St. Clair two or three weeks to prepare his case following action by the House of Representatives.

If he asked for 60 days, Mr. Mansfield said, that would have to be turned down as "unreasonable."

Presuming that the House is able to complete action by the end of August, as its leaders hope, the Senate would then be prepared to begin in the middle of September. Mr. Mansfield expects any trial to last no more than two months.

Coincides With Campaign

Thus, the proceedings in the Senate would coincide precisely with the fall campaign.

Although he did not say so directly, Mr. Mansfield believes that intensive sessions, with no time off for campaigning, would be the best politics for incumbents. The electorate would resent delay in the trial for political reasons, he thinks, and many incumbents of both parties agree with him.

Senator Robert Dole, Republican of Kansas, said recently, for example, that he was trying to do all his campaigning early, because he expects to be occupied with the trial in September. Mr. Dole, who faces a tough race, said it would be politically suicidal for him not to be there then.

Because more Republican than Democratic incumbents are threatened, an absence of campaign time might tend marginally to aid the Democrats.

But Mr. Mansfield argued that any attempts by challengers to exploit their opponents' absence from the campaign, or to force them to take stands

on impeachment, would backfire. "The people always turn on demagogues," he said.

Mr. Mansfield said that no committee meetings would be held during a trial, and that evening sessions would be called to deal with emergency legislation during that time.

Should there be an unexpected delay—if, for instance, the Supreme Court ordered Mr. Nixon to produce more tapes, and the House delayed its vote until it could study them—the trial conceivably could last into next year.

In that event, Mr. Mansfield said, he would favor seating incoming Senators in the gallery, giving them access to all evidence, until next Jan. 3, when they would move to the floor to replace the lame ducks who leave office then.

Arguing that the Senate is "a continuing body," because only one-third of its members are elected in any one year, Mr. Mansfield said the trial could continue without interruption, even though the "jury" had changed. But he conceded that others, including Mr. Nixon, might dispute him and contend that the trial would have to begin anew.

Televising Backed

Mr. Mansfield also made the following points:

¶ He favors televising the entire proceeding, but he would insist that there be no commercial interruptions and would stipulate that there be only one camera—stationed in the well on the Senate and trained on the podium, apparently to avoid shots of "showboating" or snoozing Senators.

¶ He has "a feeling there shouldn't be" a special committee of Senators to screen the evidence and recommend procedures, as there has been in some impeachments.

¶ He thinks it will be "much

more difficult" for the President to withhold evidence from the Senate than it has been for him to withhold it from the Judiciary Committee, because doing so might lose him crucial Senate votes.

¶ He foresees no change in the rule specifying that Senators may address only written—not oral—questions to the trial witnesses.

¶ A trial will require that he and his colleagues avoid "even the appearance of politics," the majority leader said. "If we're going to sit as judges, we'd better begin to act like judges, too."