

San Clemente Days

Balmy Breezes and Business as Usual

By Carroll Kilpatrick
Washington Post Staff Writer

SAN CLEMENTE, July 26

—To all outward appearances, it was business as usual at the Western White House today as the House Judiciary Committee in Washington drew nearer to an impeachment vote.

The air of unreality was thick here as President Nixon, on as beautiful a day as anyone could wish for, worked on the budget he will send to Congress in January, conferred on German-American relations, and met with his chief of staff, Alexander M. Haig Jr., and his press secretary, Ronald L. Ziegler.

Rose Mary Woods, the President's personal secretary, walked casually outside the President's office, appearing relaxed and well.

Stephen Bull, Mr. Nixon's appointments secretary and occasional custodian of presidential tapes, chatted with his usual wit and good humor with reporters outside the President's office.

Was anything amiss? Not at all, deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren seemed to be saying in a briefing on the lawn outside the President's office, with cool breezes from the Pacific blowing his hair.

"The President feels fine," Warren said in reply to questions. "His mood is confident."

"Confident of what?" the newsmen wanted to know.

"Our belief is that the House will not—repeat not—vote out a bill of impeachment," Warren intoned, as he has done for days on end.

A skeptical newsman asked Warren how he could reconcile the argument of every White House spokesman that the President is in excellent shape in the House with the contention of every observer of the House of Representatives that he faces a serious threat of impeachment.

Warren replied that the newsman would have to make the reconciliation himself.

Was the President watching any of the House Judiciary Committee proceedings on television? newsmen asked Warren.

"He has not watched any of the proceedings," Warren replied.

Another reporter asked Warren to check again, reminding him that White House spokesmen maintained last year that Mr. Nixon never watched the Senate Watergate committee hearings, although it was disclosed later that he had watched some of them.

Warren refused to double check.

The President receives reports on Judiciary Committee developments through Haig and Ziegler, Warren said.

Ziegler, in a sport shirt and no tie, bounced as usual about the offices here as though nothing untoward was going on elsewhere.

While Warren was attempting to answer newsmen's questions on the lawn, he was handed a note saying that the President had begun a meeting inside with Roy Ash, director of the Office of Management and Budget, to work on the budget for the fiscal year which begins next July 1.

The President is to meet here Saturday with Dr. Charles Leroy Lowman, 94, founder of Orthopedic Hospital in Los Angeles, a physician the Los Angeles Medical Association has called the "doctor of the century."

After meeting with Dr. Lowman to congratulate him on his service to huffer on the housing/situation manity, Mr. Nixon is to conwith James T. Lynn, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Lynn was here to see the President Wednesday, but the Supreme Court ruling ordering the President to turn over 64 tapes to U.S. District Court in Washington caused a postponement of the meeting.

The President's chief business meeting of the day was with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. It was not clear why Genscher, who is visiting the United States, came here to see Mr. Nixon.

But he and Kissinger, appearing before microphones on the lawn, expressed their pleasure in meeting for an hour with the busy President. They reaffirmed the close ties between the two countries and between the United States and Europe. Kissinger and Genscher said.

The President took the occasion to thank Genscher for Germany's cooperation with the United States in bringing peace to the eastern Mediterranean. Kissinger said, in reference to the fighting in Cyprus.

Genscher said he discussed the military, economic and political aspects of the Atlantic alliance with Mr. Nixon.

The President, who flew here two weeks ago today, plans to return to Washington late Sunday, Warren said.