

Calls Expected for Nixon Resignation

Washington

Three senior Republican members of the House Judiciary Committee said yesterday that they expect renewed appeals for President Nixon's resignation after the committee completes work on a bill of impeachment later this week.

The three, all of whom voted against the first article of the impeachment resolution Saturday, predicted in telephone interviews that such appeals would grow out of Republican fears of the consequences of the impeachment process on their party and on the nation as a whole.

However, none of the three — Representatives Robert McClory of Illinois, Henry P. Smith III of upstate New York and David W. Dennis of Indiana — said he personally was prepared to ask Mr. Nixon to quit.

And Representative M. Caldwell Butler, a Virginia Republican who voted for impeachment Saturday, said on a television interview program that "in the absence of an admission of total guilt" he thought it would be "a serious mistake for the President to resign."

For months, Mr. Nixon has insisted that he would not resign, that he would fight down to the last vote in the Senate trial that would follow impeachment by the House of Representatives.

Smith, the third-ranking member, said "there may

well be a substantial number of Republicans in the House who will now be ready to go to the President and tell him bluntly that he should resign.

Asked why, he said: "A President under impeachment is going to be an albatross around the neck of the party in November — and I prophesy that the House is going to vote to impeach him, although I do not expect him to be convicted by the Senate."

If the present tentative timetable is followed, the House will complete action on impeachment at the end of next month, just as the campaign is beginning, and the Senate will not complete the trial until well after election day.

Smith, who is retiring this year and thus faces no re-election pressures, said he thought it was "quite possible" that Representative John J. Rhodes (Rep-Ariz.), the House minority leader, would again call upon Mr. Nixon to reconsider his attitude.

McClory, who has helped to draft second and third articles of impeachment, dealing with abuses of presidential power and defiance of committee subpoenas, and who plans to support them, said, "an enlargest group" of Republicans in the House is reaching the conclusion that the impeachment process will tear their party and the political fabric of the country apart.

New York Times