

O'Neill Won't Oppose TV for Floor Debate

The possibility of televising impeachment proceedings on the House floor was given a boost yesterday as Majority Leader Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill, who formerly opposed TV coverage in the House, said his objections have been removed.

O'Neill said his main concerns were protecting Judiciary Committee members from the TV glare during their investigative work and preventing TV grandstanding by members during the committee deliberations and the full House deliberations.

But now the investigative stage is past, and the committee's dignity and decorum during its deliberations have dispelled his concern, O'Neill said.

He also noted that the minority leadership favors televising the floor debate and added, "If they have no objections, I have no objections."

The House Rules Committee is scheduled to take up a resolution today allowing TV coverage of the floor action. But the consideration might be postponed, since there is a rule saying members must be given 8 hours notice that a matter is going to come up, and only yesterday did Rules Chairman Ray Madden (D-Ind.) decide to schedule the TV resolution.

In the Senate, Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-

Mont.) reaffirmed yesterday his desire to allow some televising of a Senate impeachment trial. Minority Leader Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) said he wasn't opposed.

Mansfield would let the cameras cover the area where the witnesses and lawyers sit; they couldn't plan around the chamber.