

# Nixon Not Likely To 'Bypass' House

## Washington

The White House tried out and apparently discarded yesterday a proposal that would have short-circuited the impeachment process in the House and moved the case swiftly to the Senate for trial.

Informed sources on Capitol Hill said that President Nixon had told his political counsellor, Dean Burch, that he personally opposed the proposal. Mr. Nixon acted after a significant number of GOP Congressmen had denounced the plan as a "cop-out" that would bring the House into disrepute with the American public.

White House special assistant Patrick J. Buchanan said at a breakfast meeting with reporters that there had been "serious slippage"

in Mr. Nixon's strength in the House. He said the White House was considering a proposal advanced by some Republican members in which Mr. Nixon would, in effect, concede impeachment in the House and concentrate on the trial in the Senate.

Later in the day Buchanan said in a telephone interview that attitudes on the White House staff ranged from "skepticism to outright opposition" to the proposal.

"The drawbacks and disadvantages overwhelmingly dominate right now," he said.

This also was the view among a significant number of House Republicans.

Typical was the comment of Representative Alan

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Steelman (Rep-Texas).

"It's simply a means of trying to avoid a tough decision that we have to make," Steelman said. "This whole proposal is nothing more than a cute maneuver to pass the buck to the Senate. If we do, the public will become even more cynical and suspicious than they are now."

The plan was first put forward five months ago by Representative Lou Frey (Rep-Fla.), who no longer advocates it, on the grounds that it would push the impeachment process to a speedy conclusion. At the time the White House wasn't interested.

Two days ago the proposal was revived by two Republican members who are usually strongly supportive of the President, Sam Stei-

ger of Arizona and Charles S. Gubser of California. Steiger is not considered in any danger at the polls in November and Gubser is retiring from Congress.

Some congressmen were suspicious that the sudden White House interest in the revived proposal reflected a new understanding by the President's strategists that they have already lost the battle to fend off impeachment. Both Gubser and Steiger warned Burch that the vote could assume landslide proportions after two weeks of debate on the House floor.

In this context, these congressmen said, a telegram from the President to the House asking for impeachment might have the effect of diluting the impact of the vote upon the American people and the Senate.

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