

Morton Says Lobby Could Hurt Nixon

Washington

Interior Secretary Rogers Morton said yesterday it might hurt President Nixon if cabinet members lobbied the House of Representatives against impeachment.

But he said he wants to discuss the possibility with Vice President Gerald R. Ford.

Morton denied in response to a question that the White House was pressing him to lobby, but left it unclear why he raised the subject with newsmen he invited to breakfast.

Morton, a former congressman and Republican party chairman, reaffirmed his support of Mr. Nixon but said he was neither volunteering to lobby against impeachment nor trying to head off any White House request in the future that he do so.

Morton said he was concerned that prolonged House debate on impeachment might display a lopsided case against the President and jeopardize his chances

for a fair trial in the Senate.

Despite his concern, Morton said he saw no practical way to avoid House debate.

Associated Press