

NYTimes
Nixon Called 'Underdog'
In Impeachment Struggle

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 2—President Nixon was described by a spokesman today as "an underdog" in the Congressional impeachment move.

Gerald L. Warren, the White House deputy press secretary, read from notes, apparently approved by the President. He said that Mr. Nixon faces an "uphill struggle—it is a political struggle," but that because it was political, the President had a chance to win.

This was an indication that Mr. Nixon is preparing to fight the impeachment effort on political grounds. Previously, his spokesmen stressed the evidence and the legal aspects of the case, arguing that when Congressmen weighed the evidence, they would vote to acquit the President.

"We recognize the situation as it exists in the House," Mr. Warren said, presumably referring to statements by Congressional leaders that an impeachment vote was expected. "We face an uphill struggle, but in a political struggle, you have a chance to win."

Mr. Warren said that while the White House was not ready to concede that Mr. Nixon faced defeat in the House, "If you had to make odds, you'd have to put the President in the role of underdog."

The new White House language was interpreted by some observers as an indication that Mr. Nixon was resigned to defeat in the House but would try to hold his losses there to a minimum and concentrate on winning in the Senate, where a two-thirds vote is required for conviction and removal from office.

The House has before it for

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consideration three articles of impeachment voted by the Judiciary Committee. The articles accuse Mr. Nixon of obstruction of justice, abuse of authority and defiance of House subpoenas.

In any event, Mr. Nixon seemed to be emphasizing through his spokesman that he had not given up. Mr. Warren denied, as he and other spokesmen have repeatedly, that the President had even considered resigning.

In response to questions, he said of the President, "His health is excellent," and "his spirits are very good."

Meantime, a group of Republicans formally introduced on the House floor a resolution calling for censure of the President rather than impeachment. The author of the resolution was Representative Paul Findley of Illinois.

"Hearings of the Judiciary Committee and developments in the courts have, I believe, clearly established gross negligence,

maladministration and moral insensitivity on the part of the President," Mr. Findley said. "And yet I question whether the evidence establishes convincing proof of wrongdoing on the part of the President personally of such magnitude as to warrant removal from office."

The move was opposed by Democratic leaders and a number of Republicans and thus was not considered likely to be adopted. However, some members who favor impeachment said that in the interest of fairness it should be sent to the floor during the impeachment debate.

Two Democratic representatives both liberals, announced today, as expected, that they would vote for impeachment. They were John Brademas of Indiana and David R. Obey of Wisconsin.

Peter W. Rodino Jr. of New Jersey, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, said in a brief floor speech that the Committee's formal report on the impeachment articles would be sent to the House on Wednesday. The tentative plan is for impeachment debate to open Aug. 19.