

# Nixon Calls In His Lawyer, Top Aides

## Hints of Major New Response

Washington

President Nixon summoned his chief lawyer, aides and speech writers to Camp David yesterday, and met with them for five hours, arousing speculation that some move was contemplated in reaction to the congressional impeachment drive.

His spokesmen would not disclose the nature of the conference. Deputy Press Secretary Gerald L. Warren said there were no plans for a speech by the President and discouraged speculation, but he did not rule out the possibility that Mr. Nixon was preparing some new response to pressures for impeachment.

There were a number of options open to the President, including the release of tape recordings subpoenaed by the House Judiciary Committee.

The failure of the President to respond to those subpoenas was the basis of the third article of impeachment voted by the committee last week.

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Saturday, Robert P. Griffin of Michigan, assistant Republican leader in the Senate, wrote the President that if he defied a Senate subpoena for the same tapes he, Griffin, would vote for impeachment conviction on that count.

Griffin has been considered a staunch Nixon supporter.

Release of the subpoenaed material sought by the House Judiciary Committee would not clear the President of the two other articles of impeachment — contributing to the Watergate coverup and misuse of his office — but it would relieve some of the pressure.

Mr. Nixon went to Camp

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David, the presidential retreat in the Catoctin Mountains, Saturday afternoon with Mrs. Nixon; his daughters and sons-in-law, David and Julie Eisenhower and Edward and Tricia Cox; and his friend, Charles G. Rebozo.

Late, yesterday afternoon, Mr. Nixon sent for his chief lawyer James D. St. Clair, his two top aides, Alexander M. Haig Jr., and Ronald L. Ziegler, and speechwriters Patrick Buchanan and Raymond Price.

Warren said the President planned to return to the White House no later than today.

The President's assistants have consistently ruled out the possibility of a resignation. They also have said that Mr. Nixon would not ex-

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ercise a provision of the 25th Amendment that would permit him to step aside until the impeachment issue was settled.

Yet according to his own supporters in Congress, Mr. Nixon's position in the impeachment drive has steadily worsened. Griffin's ultimatum was considered par-

ticularly important.

In a letter delivered to Mr. Nixon Saturday, Griffin said bluntly that the House would adopt articles of impeachment, necessitating a Senate trial, unless Mr. Nixon should resign first. In the event of a trial, he said, the Senate most certainly would subpoena the material sought by the House Judiciary Committee.

"Particularly in light of the recent Supreme Court decision," he wrote, "you will stand in contempt of the Senate and the Constitution if you refuse at that point to provide the Senate with the tapes or absolute evidence that they contain no relevant information."

New York Times