

# OMB Seen Used In Nixon Defense

By Jules Witcover  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) says he intends to ask Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski to investigate charges that the White House used the Office of Management and Budget to influence the votes of House members on impeachment.

Cranston made the statement on the ABC news show, "The Reasoner Report," where a lawyer for a group opposing federal funding of a proposed dam in northern California quoted an OMB official as saying:

"You are wasting your time with OMB because our policy directive right now is that we are not to impound funds or affect the funding of any project in a way that would alienate or anger the congressman in whose district that project is located. . . Our instructions right now are to worry about the House of Representatives. The impeachment isn't in the Senate yet."

The lawyer, Paul Kayfetz, declined to identify the OMB official. ABC news said the OMB denied the existence of such a policy.

The show also quoted a lawyer for the Environmental Defense Fund, Rick Brown, charging "impeachment politics" has persuaded President Nixon to favor construction of the Cross-Florida Barge Canal,

which he earlier had blocked on environmental grounds.

Brown said the President had taken a preliminary step toward construction as "a response to fears on the part of the administration that certain members of the Florida delegation will be able to use their influence on the floor of the House if the matter of impeachment gets to the floor of the House."

Florida Reps. Robert L. F. Sikes and Bill Chappell, Jr., both Democrats, denied on the show that there was any indication the President was practicing impeachment politics concerning the canal.

"I think that's a ridiculous assumption or a ridiculous claim," Chappell said.

"I've seen nothing whatever to indicate impeachment politics in my relations with the White House," Sikes said.