

NIXON CALLS AIDES IN POSSIBLE MOVE ON IMPEACHMENT

AUG 5 1974

St. Clair Summoned With
Two Speech Writers to
Camp David Talks

SEVERAL OPTIONS OPEN

Griffin Says He Will Vote
for Conviction if Senate
Subpoena Is Defied

NYTimes

By JOHN HERBERS

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4—President Nixon summoned his chief lawyer, aides and speech writers to his retreat at Camp David, Md., today, arousing speculation that some new move was contemplated as a result of the Congressional impeachment drive.

Mr. Nixon's spokesman would not disclose the nature of the conference. His deputy press secretary, Gerald L. Warren, said he knew of no plans for a speech and discouraged speculation along that line. But he did not rule out the possibility that Mr. Nixon was preparing some new response to pressures for impeachment that had been growing all week. Other sources said there was a likelihood the President would make a speech on national television tomorrow night.

Meanwhile, in testimony released by the House Judiciary Committee, Herbert W. Kalmbach, President Nixon's former personal attorney, said that John D. Ehrlichman was trying to leak a report that the Democratic party's national chairman, Lawrence F. O'Brien, was in trouble with the Internal Revenue Service weeks after Mr. Ehrlichman knew that the I.R.S. had found no basis for auditing Mr. O'Brien's tax returns. [Page 11.]

Could Release Tapes

There are a number of options open to Mr. Nixon, 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. Yesterday Senator Robert P. Griffin of Michigan, assistant Senate Republican leader, wrote Mr. Nixon that if he defied a Senate subpoena for the same tapes, he, Mr. Griffin, would vote for conviction in the expected Senate trial.

Senator Griffin has been considered a staunch Nixon supporter to whom the White House has been looking to defend the President in the impeachment struggle.

Further, President Nixon spent many hours last week listening to many of the 147 Watergate-related recordings—some 64 conversations that he has begun turning over to Federal Judge John J. Sirica under orders of the Supreme Court.

The release of the material sought by the House Judiciary Committee would not clear him

Continued on Page 15, Column 3

NIXON CALLS AIDES IN POSSIBLE MOVE

Continued From Page 1, Col. 1

by any means — the two other articles of impeachment charge him with contributing to the Watergate cover-up and misuse of his office — but it would relieve some of the pressure, especially among members of his own party.

Representative John J. Rhodes of Arizona, the House Republican leader, had scheduled a news conference for tomorrow morning to announce how he would vote on the impeachment articles, which are tentatively scheduled for House debate beginning Aug. 19. Today, his office announced he had postponed the conference until later in the week, feeding speculation that he was awaiting some move by the President.

Mr. Rhodes declined to answer a telephone call. However, his press secretary, J. Brien Smith, said the conference had been canceled because Mr. Rhodes had a sore throat, laryngitis and a high fever and that he, Mr. Smith, had persuaded him not to hold the conference tomorrow because his voice was so bad. He said that neither he nor Mr. Rhodes knew about the meeting at Camp David and that the Congressman had not been in touch with anyone at the White House.

Went With Family

President Nixon went to Camp David, in the Catoctin Mountains, yesterday 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 this afternoon, Mr. Nixon sent for his chief lawyer, James D. St. Clair, his two top aides, Gen. Alexander H. Haig Jr., and Ronald L. Ziegler, and his speech writers, Patrick J. Buchanan and Raymond K. Price Jr.

In the past, such weekend conferences at Camp David preceded a Presidential address or statement. Mr. Warren said Mr. Nixon planned to return to the White House no later than tomorrow.

The President's assistants have consistently ruled out the possibility of a resignation. They also have said Mr. Nixon would not exercise a provision of the 25th Amendment to the Constitution that would permit him to step aside until the impeachment issue was settled.