

Reagan's Advice To the President

Sacramento

Governor Ronald Reagan said yesterday it is "absolutely imperative" that President Nixon "go before the Congress immediately" and tell the whole truth about Watergate.

Reagan said the impeachment process, not resignation, is the appropriate way to decide Mr. Nixon's fate, a position that puts Reagan in conflict with GOP gubernatorial candidate Houston I. Flournoy, who now wants Mr. Nixon to resign.

Reagan said he is "personally deeply disturbed, shocked and saddened" by the revelation Monday that Mr. Nixon slowed an FBI investigation of the Watergate break-in and withheld that information from the House of Representatives.

"Until yesterday," Reagan told the Capitol press corps in a prepared statement, "I was not convinced that evidence of an impeachable offense had been presented to the Congress or the people."

"Now, for the first time, it has been revealed that neither the Congress nor the American people had been told the entire truth about Watergate.

"In view of the President's statement yesterday, I believe it is absolutely imperative that he go before the Congress immediately and make a full disclosure of all the information he has on this matter, answering any and all questions the members may have."

The governor said that al-



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GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN
'Imperative that he go before the Congress immediately'

though the House Judiciary Committee has concluded Mr. Nixon committed impeachable offenses, Reagan is still withholding judgment because, in Reagan's phrase, "anyone — be he president or pauper — is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

"I don't believe that resignation is the proper resolution of the issue," said Reagan.

Reagan denied a report that he opposes resignation because that would give the presidency to Vice President Gerald Ford and make remote Reagan's chances to reach the White House.

That, said Reagan, is a "ridiculous idea" and "the farthest thing from my mind."

Asked if he felt Nixon lied to a gathering of governors last year in Memphis when he told them there would be "no more bombshells" about Watergate, Reagan frowned, pondered and finally hedged:

"If you term that a lie, then that's a lie."

Our Correspondent