

# Goldwater Expects Only a 'Hard Core' Of Senate Votes for Acquitting Nixon

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By MARTIN WALDRON

PHOENIX, Ariz., Aug. 7— Senator Barry Goldwater said tonight that he and Senator Hugh Scott told President Nixon this afternoon that the President could count no more than 15 votes for acquittal if he is impeached by the House and tried by the Senate.

The Arizona Senator also said in a news conference that he would be willing to become Vice President if Mr. Nixon resigns or is convicted by the Senate after impeachment, and Gerald Ford becomes President.

"No man could say no to that question," Senator Goldwater said when asked whether he was willing to be Mr. Ford's Vice President. "Any way I could serve my country I would do so."

Senator Goldwater, who was his party's Presidential nominee in 1964, said he did not expect to be asked to be Vice President. "I would lay odds that it won't happen."

The Senator held the news conference by telephone with reporters for Arizona newspapers and radio and television stations.

Mr. Goldwater said that the only person he had heard mentioned as a possible Vice-Presidential choice was Nelson A. Rockefeller, the former Governor of New York.

Mr. Goldwater said that he, Mr. Scott of Pennsylvania, the Republican leader in the Senate, and Representative John J. Rhodes of Arizona, the Republican leader in the House, went to the White House this afternoon at the President's invitation to give him "our best esti-

mate of what the picture was in both House of Congress."

Mr. Goldwater said that it was agreed that the vote for impeachment in the House would be "nearly unanimous," and that he and Senator Scott did not think that more than "15 hard-working Senators could be expected to vote for acquittal at this time."

The President's acknowledgment on Monday that he had withheld evidence from the House Judiciary Committee and from his own lawyers had left the Senator "very, very upset," he said. "It really shook me up."

But he added, "I don't even know yet how I would vote if it came to the Senate. I will be guided by what I hear and what I believe."

Senator Goldwater said that the President did not mention resigning during the afternoon conference, and he declined to say during the news conference what he would recommend if the President should ask his advice.

Mr. Nixon told his visitors, the Senator said, that "whatever decision he made would be in the best interest of the country. He gave no indication at all what choice he had made."

The Phoenix Gazette reported this afternoon that President Nixon would resign today.

The newspaper, which is friendly to Mr. Goldwater, said it got the information from a "highly reliable" Washington source, but the managing editor denied that the source was Senator Goldwater.

The Senator said he did not think it was "proper for me" to recommend to the President

what course he should follow. "I'm not sure what I think," he said.

Although Senator Goldwater attacked the press today in a speech on the Senate floor, he said in his news conference tonight that if President Nixon resigned, he would not feel that Mr. Nixon had been "hounded" from office by news media.

The President, Mr. Goldwater said, bears "a great responsibility" for his predicament. He said Mr. Nixon should have told his part in the Watergate cover-up two years ago and "this would already be over."

Mr. Goldwater said there had been "a little partisanship here and there" in the impeachment proceedings, but that by and large Mr. Nixon had been treated properly during the impeachment investigation and would receive "a fair trial" in both the House and the Senate.

Senator Goldwater said he had heard no talk in Congress about giving President Nixon immunity from prosecution in return for a promise by the President to resign. But he said the question of whether Congress by law give a President immunity from prosecution is being researched.

The 16 Senators whom the President could now count to vote against conviction are "constitutionalists," Mr. Goldwater said. He would not name them.





The New York Times/Mike Lien

Senator Barry Goldwater, center, talking at a news session outside the White House after he and Senator Hugh Scott, left, and Representative John J. Rhodes, right, conferred with President Nixon. They said they found him serene despite his difficulties.