

Rhodes Predicts Nixon

Washington

House Republican leader John J. Rhodes said yesterday it would be "useful" if former President Nixon publicly admitted his guilt in the Watergate coverup, and predicted Mr. Nixon eventually would do so.

But the Arizona lawmaker added that any attempt to prosecute Mr. Nixon on Watergate - related charges

would bring "further division of the country and would not be beneficial."

Asked during a televised news conference if Mr. Nixon should issue a statement about his involvement in the scandal, which has resulted in 33 men either pleading guilty of being convicted of criminal actions, Rhodes replied: "I think it would be useful and I would imagine at some time or another,

President Nixon will do this."

Rhodes said "The timing he would choose would be up to him, of course." But he pointed out that "the former President will be called upon to testify in other cases and I should think that any statement that he made right now could be prejudicial to that testimony."

Rhodes said no attempt

Will Admit Guilt

should be made to press charges against Mr. Nixon because "he has been President of the United States and many of us feel that, except for the Watergate matter, he did a very noble job of it. I think that because he has been President and done that type of job perhaps sets him apart from many of the people of the country."

In a separate televised interview, House Speaker Carl

Albert said flatly the House would not pursue the impeachment process beyond receiving the report of its Judiciary Committee.

Albert agreed with a questioner that once the committee impeachment report has been received by the House and published, "history will be satisfied that Nixon was not hounded from office."

As for whether Mr. Nixon

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now should be prosecuted, Albert said:

"It's out of our hands now. I share the view that he has suffered a great deal, but I do not know where that fits in with our system of equal justice under the law. Anybody, anybody at all, who is brought before the bar of justice suffers."

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