

Lundine Learning Toward Expulsion Of Myers

Although he plans to make no commitment until he has heard both sides of the story, Rep. Stanley N. Lundine, D-Jamestown, said yesterday he is leaning in favor of expelling Rep. Michael Myers, D-Pa., from the House of Representatives for Myers' conviction in the Abscam scandal.

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Myers, a 37-year-old former long-shoreman serving his first term in Congress, was convicted by a federal jury in Brooklyn of taking cash payment after promising to introduce a bill to help a supposed Arab "sheik" enter the country. Lundine said that it appears

Myers' conviction is definite and in view of the fact that the crime relates directly to Myers' conduct in office, he feels that expulsion is necessary.

"The House has an interest in maintaining it's own integrity," Lundine said.

The House Ethics Committee, after reviewing all the evidence, including videotapes made by the FBI of the transaction in which Myers accepted \$50,000 in cash, has recommended that he be expelled. The full House is scheduled to hear the committee's report this week, along with a personal explanation from Myers.

Myers contends that while he did take the money, he has committed no crime because he did not intend to introduce the bill which would have allowed the supposed "sheik" to become a citizen of this country.

An appeal of his conviction is being made. Myers has said, and he told the Ethics Committee that even if his re-election bid this November is successful, he will resign if the appeal fails.

Lundine was not aware an appeal had been filed, but said if a "serious appeal" issue is raised, then perhaps it would be better to postpone any vote on expulsion until after that matter had been decided.

The videotapes of Myers are available to congressmen for review, but Lundine said he has not yet viewed them.

A Buffalo-area congressman who has seen the tapes told Lundine that he felt the FBI agents "really did bait Myers a lot."

"This raises a number of intricate questions about entrapment," Lundine said, adding, however, that he does not feel it is up to the House of Representatives to judge whether entrapment was used.

If Myers is expelled he will be the first member of Congress to receive that punishment since 1861.