

## After 'Co-Conspirator' Revelation

# Judiciary Unit Plans to Forge Ahead

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Most members of the House Judiciary Committee insisted yesterday that the revelation that President Nixon had been named by the Watergate grand jury as an unindicted co-conspirator in the cover-up should have no influence on their impeachment inquiry.

But some, mostly Democrats, and including Chairman Peter W. Rodino (D-N.J.), acknowledged that the news undoubtedly would have an impact on public opinion and that, in the words of Rep. John Seiberling (D-Ohio), congressmen don't function "in a vacuum" immune from voter reaction.

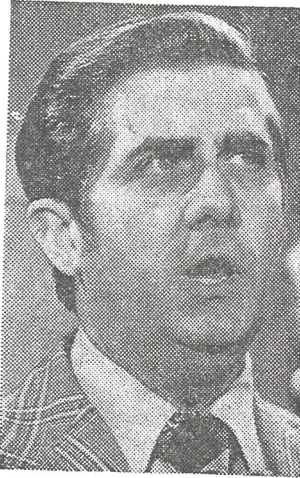
"Members of the committee should seriously consider this" along with allegations against the President which the committee is examining, Rodino said.

Rodino indicated that confirmation of reports that the grand jury named the President as an unindicted co-conspirator will not change the committee's schedule for its impeachment inquiry, however.

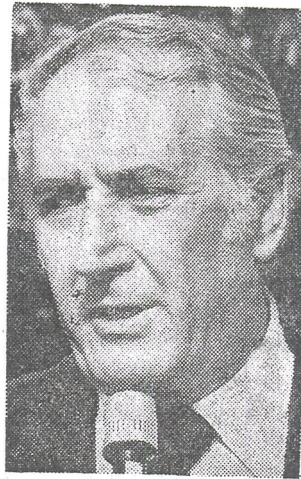
He told newsmen the committee will continue, as planned, to spend two more weeks behind closed doors examining evidence compiled by its staff as to whether the President should be impeached for involvement in Watergate or other actions.

Still to be considered is evidence on misuse of federal agencies to harass political enemies, refusal to spend appropriated funds, political "dirty tricks," the firing of the first Watergate special prosecutor, Archibald Cox, and the President's tax returns.

The committee may interrupt these closed hearings next week to hold a meeting to issue another subpoena for White House tapes on the dairy and International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. matters.



REP. LAWRENCE HOGAN  
... "group of laymen"



REP. PETER RODINO  
... schedule unchanged

Rep. Tom Railsback (R-Ill.) said the grand jury's naming the President as a co-conspirator "should have no effect on us. We are doing our own investigation and will arrive at our own conclusion. It's another external factor we should disregard."

Rep. William Cohen (R-Maine) agreed, saying the suggestion that the news should influence the committee's action against the President was like saying that the acquittal of former Cabinet members John N. Mitchell and Marice N. Stans in the Vesco case destroyed the credibility of witness John W. Dean III and should influence the committee toward finding the President innocent.

Seiberling said he expected the jury's finding would have an impact upon public opinion because "the grand jury was made up not of lawyers and politicians but of ordinary citizens who listened to a lot of evidence and decided the President was involved in the cover-up. We don't operate in a vacuum, but we should come to our own independent conclusion."

Rep. Jerome Waldie (D-Calif.), who favors impeach-

"It will not change anything we do," said Rep. Robert Kas-tenmeier (D-Wis.).

Rep. Jack Brooks (D-Tex.) agreed, but added he thought it "pertinent that objective people looking at the facts could feel he is guilty of some wrongdoing."

Rep. Edward Mezvinsky (D-Iowa) said he hoped the grand jury's conclusion would "add to the objectivity with which members of the committee view the evidence, that pre-conceived notions will be discarded."

Rep. Wayne Owens (D-Utah) said the grand jury's conclusion would not affect his position. But Rep. Joshua Eilberg (D-Pa.) said the fact that "he would have been indicted if he were not President will have a prejudicial effect on the committee."

But Rep. M. Caldwell Butler (R-Va.) said: "They drew a legal conclusion, which we have to do. You can't ignore it."

White House domestic affairs adviser Kenneth Cole described the grand jury action as one item in a long list of Watergate events, and said it would have no effect on the President's ability to govern.

ment, said the grand jury's conclusion "will have no impact on me. Their conclusion is less important than the evidence on which they based it. We have the same evidence with which to make our own judgment."

Rep. Lawrence Hogan (R-Md.) called the grand jury's conclusion "totally non-germane. It is just a judgment of a group of laymen."