

House Unit To Summon Henry Ruth

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The House criminal justice subcommittee voted yesterday to summon Watergate Special Prosecutor Henry S. Ruth Jr. for questioning behind closed doors about his investigation.

The Judiciary subcommittee approved unanimously by voice vote a motion by Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman (D-N.Y.) to ask Ruth about:

- Whether he conducted "a full, complete and thorough" investigation.

- The nature of Ruth's final report, which he said he would submit to Congress in August before his office terminates in September.

- The ultimate disposition of materials in the special prosecutor's office.

Rep. Holtzman told a reporter afterward that the closed meeting with Ruth before Congress starts its August recess would not preclude the possibility of open hearings later.

She has expressed fears since the third and final Watergate grand jury was dismissed July 3 that Ruth would close up shop with "serious questions" still unanswered. She cited the 18½-minute gap in a White House tape recording as well as the extent of Richard M. Nixon's Watergate activities.

Rep. Charles E. Wiggins (R-Calif.) the ranking Republican, expressed fears that a congressional investigation of the special prosecutor's office could be interpreted as "political pressure" to return indictments.

Rep. Holtzman, disagreeing, said she was seeking "some assurance that he (Ruth) has fully discharged his duty."