

Rodino Gets Rocky's Tax Audit

Washington

Chairman Peter Rodino of the House Judiciary Committee yesterday began a review of a confidential six-year audit of vice presidential nominee Nelson Rockefeller's tax returns.

The audit was prepared by more than 40 Joint Tax Committee and Internal Revenue Service auditors, who have studied Rockefeller's financial records for more than six weeks.

A spokesman for the joint committee said the audit will remain confidential and copies will be given only to the two committees handling Rockefeller's nomination — the House Judiciary and Senate Rules Committees.

Rodino refused to comment on the audit or on Rockefeller's chances of being confirmed. But he told reporters he would call a meeting of the committee next Wednesday and would schedule hearings on Rockefeller's confirmation as soon as possible after Congress reconvenes November 18.

However, he said it was impossible to tell at this time if the House would be able to complete action on the nomination this year, or would have to wait until the new congress convenes in January.

While details of the report were unavailable, one Judiciary Committee source said that it was believed Rockefeller cleared up the main problem with his taxes last week when he announced he would pay an additional \$1 million in additional taxes plus interest for his returns over the last five years.

The IRS, in what Rockefeller described as a "routine" and ongoing review of his tax returns, disallowed \$1.2 million in deductions that Rockefeller had claimed over a five-year period for business expenses and gifts.

United Press