

Impeach-Nixon Resolution Introduced by Rep. Drinan

Massachusetts Priest Cites 'Secret Air War in Cambodia' and President's 'High Crimes and Misdemeanors'

By MARJORIE HUNTER

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 31— Representative Robert F. Drinan, Democrat of Massachusetts, introduced a resolution today calling for the impeachment of President Nixon "for high crimes and misdemeanors."

Until now, there had been muted talk, largely in Congressional cloakrooms, of bringing impeachment proceedings against Mr. Nixon in the wake of revelations about White House involvement in the Watergate affair.

But it was not the Watergate affair alone that prompted the move by Father Drinan, a Jesuit priest, former law

committee members went to send to the Senate floor before the Congressional recess this weekend.

At hearings yesterday, retired Army Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, who was chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff when the bombings were started in March, 1969, testified that Mr. Nixon had demanded on at least six occasions that the raids be protected with the utmost security measures possible. Hearings may be resumed next week, committee sources said.

Representative Drinan's impeachment move came as a surprise to House leaders, who had been trying for months to convince some of the more patient members that impeachment action would be "premature" until the full story of the Watergate affair became known.

It does not appear likely that the resolution will be acted upon soon, if ever, either by the House Judiciary Committee to which it was sent or the full House.

Despite the concern of some members over Watergate, there appears little support in the House even to consider impeachment proceedings.

However, the Drinan resolution could prove to be a rallying point for other members who, until now, have been merely tiptoeing around the subject. Thus, its impact cannot be fully predicted at this time.

Little-Used Provision

Under the Constitution, impeachment proceedings start in the House. If the House, by majority vote, decides that an individual should be impeached (comparable in some ways to a grand jury indictment), the matter is referred to the Senate.

The Senate, in turn, convets itself into a court to hear the case involving the accused official. The Chief Justice of the United States presides over the Senate's deliberations.

The Senate has sat as a court of impeachment only 12 times in the nation's history. Most of these cases involved Federal judges and only one involved



United Press International

The Rev. Robert F. Drinan

Nixon conducted a totally secret air war in Cambodia for 14 months prior to April 30, 1970." school professor and anti activist.

He said today that he had decided to offer his impeachment resolution only after "recent revelation that President

Hearings into the secret bombing were interrupted by the Senate Armed Services Committee today so the committee could complete its deliberations on a \$20-billion plus defense spending bill that



The New York Times

Samuel Dash, left, chief counsel to the Senate Watergate committee, conferring yesterday with Senator Herman E. Talmadge, Democrat of Georgia, a member.

a President, Andrew Johnson of Tennessee. He was acquitted in 1868 when a motion to convict him, requiring a two-thirds majority, failed by one vote.

While few persons have been impeached and even fewer convicted, numerous resolutions for impeachment have been introduced in the House throughout the years.

Three resolutions were introduced in the House last year for impeachment of President Nixon on the grounds that he was waging war in Vietnam without the express consent of Congress. These resolutions died in the Judiciary Committee.

Other resolutions have been introduced in recent years for impeachment of other individuals, including Justice William O. Douglas of the Supreme Court. These, too, were never acted upon by the full House.

Following His Conscience

The Drinan resolution is a simple 17-word measure: "Resolved, that Richard M. Nixon, President of the United States, is impeached of high crimes and misdemeanors."

Father Drinan said that he had resisted offering such a resolution for many months but that he now felt he must

"follow my convictions and my conscience."

Father Drinan said that, under his resolution, the House should inquire not only into the secret bombing of Cambodia but also into whether President Nixon was guilty of impeachable offenses in other matters.

Among those, he said, were Mr. Nixon's taping of all his official conversations, Mr. Nixon's

impoundment of funds appropriated by Congress, and his establishment of "a super-secret security force within the White House" to investigate security leaks.

Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr., New Jersey Democrat who is chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, said he would study the resolution carefully before deciding whether to call for committee hearings.