

# House Acts on Prosecutor Bill

Washington

The House Judiciary Committee moved yesterday to link the Special Watergate prosecution to its inquiry into whether to impeach President Nixon.

The committee did so by approving, as expected, a bill that would create a court-appointed special prosecutor — and by adding to the bill the requirement that the prosecutor provide the committee leaders with any information “pertinent” to the President’s possible impeachment.

Under the bill, which now goes to the full House of Representatives for consideration, the special prosecutor would be required to “report at least monthly,” to the committee chairman and the committee’s ranking Republican member “such information as may be pertinent to the question of whether impeachable offenses have been committed.”

Should the committee so request, the special prosecutor also would be required to provide the chairman and ranking Republican with any “information, documents and other evidence” necessary to help the committee investigate whether grounds

for impeachment existed.

“Did the President commit impeachable offenses?” — that’s where the country is now,” said Representative Jerome R. Waldie (Dem.-Calif.), speaking in favor of the provision at the committee’s meeting yesterday and, in effect summing up the justifications offered by the provision’s proponents.

Most of the Republicans on the committee had opposed court appointment of the special prosecutor.

## VOICES

The vote on the bill to create a court-appointed prosecutor was a voice vote, with the chorus of “ayes” coming mostly from the Democratic side and the “nays” from the Republican.

If this voting pattern should continue when the measure comes before the full House, the bill would be approved but with less than the two-thirds majority needed to override the anticipated presidential veto.

The House Judiciary Committee must initiate any impeachment proceedings.

The Senate Judiciary Committee yesterday postponed until November 21 its vote on a similar bill.

*Los Angeles Times*