

Man Who Will Probe Nixon

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The congressional impeachment machinery began rolling yesterday with the appointment of a former assistant attorney general to direct an investigation by the House Judiciary Committee.

John Doar, head of the Justice Department's civil rights division during the racial disturbances of the 1960s, was picked by Chairman Peter W. Rodino, (Dem-N.J.) to conduct the first impeachment inquiry aimed at a president in more than 100 years.

Rodino said he hopes the committee can complete its work in April.

"The important thing is to assure that the Judiciary Committee carries out its responsibilities in an orderly, lawful, dignified way," said Rodino at a news conference at which he introduced Doar.

The committee's assignment is to examine all available evidence and determine whether Mr. Nixon has committed any impeachable offenses.

If the panel recommends impeachment, the full House would have to approve it by majority vote. If the House does so the Senate would then conduct a trial, with a two-thirds majority required for conviction.

Rodino said Doar was selected from among 100 candidates recommended by an informal panel of judges, lawyers, academicians and political leaders he consulted.

A Republican who was first named to the Justice Department by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1960, Doar stayed on to become a hero of the civil rights movement and a close friend of the late Robert F. Kennedy when Kennedy was attorney general.

After leaving the government in 1967, Doar became head of the New York City school board and director of a nonprofit anti-poverty organization in New York.

Asked if he thought his relationship with the Kennedys would arouse the same antagonism in the administration that led to the firing of Archibald Cox as special prosecutor, Doar drew a distinction between his job and Cox's.

"I am not a special prosecutor," he said. "I am counsel to the Judiciary Committee."

Rodino said Doar's responsibility would be to direct the staff of 31 lawyers assembled for the investigation and prepare the evidence on which the committee will base its decision. He will not make any recommendations to the committee, Rodino said.

Associated Press



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JOHN DOAR, CONGRESSMAN RODINO Investigator, chairman of the impeachment committee