White House Faces Clash With Impeachment Panel

By JAMES M. NAUGHTON Special to The New York Time

The White House and the House Judiciary Committee some 700 pages of documents and 17 tape recordings. Mr. let's inquiry into possible im-

clared that the President's Wa-grounds tergate lawyers and the Depart-would be made public early ment of Justice would both issue "another point of view" House committee that his rechallenging the conclusion of the committee staff that the dence, based on a list of materscope of impeachment covered ial already assembled by the a broad array of offenses not special Watergate prosecutor, limited to indictable crimes.

The Judiciary Committee's livered "promptly." special counsel, John M. Doar, flict, told the panel at a meet-inquiry would know in a few ing this morning that it should take the White House no more Continued on Page 7, Column 1

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22 - than "a day or two" to comply

peachment of President Nixon. tarily turn over the material.

The White House press secretary, Ronald L. Ziegler, destration views on the proper for impeachment Leon Jaworski, would be de-

Thus it appeared likely that posing a second possible con- both sides in the impeachment

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days whether they would confront or cooperate with one another.

Mr. Doar, and other members of the committee's bipartisan impeachment inquirey staff, issued a 49-page advisory report yesterday, categorically rejecting the argument that a President may be impeached only for violations of Criminal laws. The study did not de-fine precisely the scope of impeachment, but made clear that it included a broad assortment of actions that might represent "grave misconduct."

At a White House briefing this morning, Mr. Ziegler declined to characterize the Administration view on the basic issue of what constitutes impeachable misconduct. But he said that the President's advisers would have "another

point of view on this question."

James D. St. Clair, the President's special Watergate counsel, has described impeachment as an "adversary" proceeding much like that between lawyers representing conflicting interests. He is expected by Republicans on the Judiciary Committee to challenge the committee staff's assertion that "impeachable conduct need not be criminal."

2 Justice Agency Studies

The Justice Department is sued late today two "working papers" on the historical background of impeachment, but withheld publication of a legal memorandum drawing conclusions from the two provides.

sions from the two appendices. The two background studies The two background studies were accompanied by a disclaimer in which Robert G. Dixon Jr., an Assistant Attorne General, stated that the documents "should not be regarded as an official position of the Department of Justice."

Nonetheless, the documents may have suggested the outline of the Administration's viewpoint.

point.

The House Judiciary Committee staff said that the impeachment standard in the Constitution — "high crimes and misdemeanors"—was a legal "term of art" drawn from British inveschusers. ish impeachment proceedings. The committee lawyers said the phrase would include "constitutional wrongs that subject the structure of government, o undermine the integrity of of-fice and even the Constitution itself."

one of the two Justice Department "working papers," a 57-page report, "The Concept of Impeachment Offense," took account of interpretations of constitutional scholars similar to the committee staff's judg-ment. But the department paper also said that "much of what the framers" of the Constitu-tion had done "was a reaction against rather than a copy of the British model," Text of Constitution

The Justice study also said that "one can make a strong argument, based on the text of the Constitution alone, that impeachment can only be predicated on a 'high' criminal offense' like treason or bribery, the only impeachable offenses specifically mentioned in the Constitution.

The scope of impeachment is likely to be debated for some time, but the question of White House willingness to supply evidence to the committee will apparently be tested apparently swiftly.

In a progress report to the 38-member Judiciary Commit-tee, Mr. Doar said that he was tee, Mr. Doar said that he was ready to make the first specific request for White House evidence, that the staff would begin inferviewing witnesses "on a fairly major scale" next week, and that he was preparing to make a number of requests for documents from several Administration departments

documents from several Administration departments.
Several of the committee's Democrats pressed Mr. Doar to tell the panel how quickly he thought the White House should volunteer evidence.
Although he said he was not going to set any deadline, Mr. Doar told Representative Wayne Owens, Democrat of Utah, that he believed it would be "no burden" for the White House to respond to the initial House to respond to the initial request in "just a day or two."

Jenner's Opinion

The committee's chief Republican counsel, Albert E. Jenner Jr., told newsmen later he thought it would be "asinine" for the White House to refuse to give the committee any evidence already supplied to

to give the committee any evidence already supplied to Watergate prosecutors.

The White House has not made clear, and Mr. Ziegler declined again today to do so, whether evidence will be voluntarily any process. tarily supplied to the committee

Representative Robert Representative Robert Mc-Clory, Republican of Illinois, said he was "very confident we're going to have full consid-eration" from both the White House and the special Water-rate prosecutor

gate prosecutor.

But Democrats suggested strongly that they would not tolerate White House delays and would, if necessary, resort to issuing formal subpoenas for

"The public is looking for expeditious action," the panel's chairman, Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr., Democrat of New Jersey, said at one point: "Congress has asked us to act promptly. Any delay will not be for coming from our ide." - Marian Ser