

Impeachment Target Date Pushed Back

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Peter W. Rodino (D-N.J.) conceded yesterday that it "doesn't really seem likely" that the committee can complete its impeachment inquiry on President Nixon by April 30. It may take another month, he said.

The end of April was the target date Rodino set months ago, before the committee had any real idea of the time and work involved in determining whether Mr. Nixon should be impeached for Watergate or other matters.

Since then there has developed a still unresolved struggle between the committee and the White House over materials requested for the inquiry, and now a new argument over the extent to which the President's lawyer should be permitted to participate in the inquiry.

These disputes may not have delayed the inquiry, however, because while these wrangles were going on in public, the committee staff has been poring over 700 documents and 19 tapes furnished by the White House, and yesterday received another batch of documents in the sealed briefcase from the Watergate grand jury.

Rodino said the committee will come "as close as it can" to his April 30 target for making a report to the House. But the committee is not expected to begin receiving evidence from its staff for about another month, and has not yet adopted hearing procedures that would indicate how long the committee would need to study the evidence and vote on it.