

P.B.S. Plans Night Broadcasts Of House Impeachment Hearing

Times

By LES BROWN

The Public Broadcasting Service announced yesterday that it would present evening coverage, by videotape, of the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment hearings on each night of the open sessions. The delayed broadcasts will begin at 8 P.M. and will run until the closing gavel.

As had been done with the evening telecasts of the Senate Watergate hearings last year, the lunch breaks and recesses will be telescoped in the P.B.S. presentation, which will be produced by the National Public Affairs Center for Television, in Washington.

Meanwhile, the commercial networks, will discuss their operating procedure over the weekend, but high-ranking sources at the three news divisions left no doubt that there would be live rotational coverage by day similar to that which the networks had adopted for the second phase of the Watergate hearings.

Under this arrangement, the networks would work with a

common technical pool and take turns providing the full daily coverage of the open sessions. The rotation would not preclude dual or triple coverage by the networks on days when the witnesses are particularly newsworthy.

The sources said there would probably be a drawing this weekend to determine the order in which the networks would be responsible for coverage.

WNET, Channel 13, expects to carry live daytime telecasts of the committee's impeachment hearings in addition to the rebroadcasts at night that P.B.S. will provide.

Robert Kotlowitz, vice president in charge of programs for WNET, said the station had given highest priority to the impeachment hearings but that its ability to carry the sessions live will depend on how soon they are held. The station has a number of commitments to daytime school programming that will end in a few weeks, he said.