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Hogan Bid to Fire Jenner Is Rejected by Hutchinson

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A request by Rep. Lawrence J. Hogan (R-Md.) that Albert Jenner, minority counsel for the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment inquiry, be fired as not sufficiently Republican was rejected by senior Republican Edward Hutchinson (R-Mich.) yesterday as "foolhardy" at this late stage in the investigation.

Hogan's letter to Hutchinson stating that Jenner, a highly regarded Chicago lawyer, has been "not a minority counsel" but "an assistant majority counsel," reflected smoldering irritation by several committee Republicans at Jenner for working in complete concert with chief counsel John Doar and not, in their view, representing Republican positions.

But immediately after receiving Hogan's letter, Hutchinson issued a statement saying he did not believe a majority of Republicans shared Hogan's view. He added:

"I would think it foolhardy to dismiss such able and distinguished counsel on the eve of presentation of evidentiary material to the committee."

Jenner has been chief minority counsel since January and, with Doar, has been most closely involved in assembling evidence for or against the impeachment of President Nixon. The staff will begin presenting the evidence to the committee later this week. The first closed session is expected to be held Thursday or Friday.

Hutchinson's firm rejection



ALBERT JENNER
... keeps counsel job



REP. LAWRENCE HOGAN
... cites grievances

of Hogan's request is expected to be the end of the matter. A majority of Republicans would not be likely to go against their committee leader's strong position. In fact, before Hutchinson responded, such a strong Jenner critic as Rep. David Dennis (R-Ind.) said he would "want to think about it" before saying whether Jenner should be fired just before he is asked to help present the case to the committee.

Hogan's five-page letter recited the grievances against Jenner, starting with the belated discovery that, though a Republican, he had made a campaign contribution to Democratic Sen. Adlai E. Stevenson III of Illinois.

The President's staunchest defenders among committee Republicans have

also been angered by Jenner's frequent public statements that gave the President no help—such as Jenner's espousal of a broad definition of impeachable offenses, and his expressed belief that Mr. Nixon could be held responsible for actions of his subordinates under certain conditions.

Jenner has been absent from some committee meetings, and when present he inevitably backed Doar's position on questions from the members.

Rep. Hamilton Fish (R-N.Y.), one of Jenner's committee supporters, said yesterday: "His opponents say he should represent a partisan position. I say we want a professional staff. I have seen nothing but professionalism from Mr. Doar. Why should we expect different from Mr. Jenner?"