

NYTimes MAY 17 1974
St. Clair's Letter to Rodino

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 17—
Following is the text of a
letter from James D. St. Clair,
special counsel to President
Nixon, sent today to Repre-
sentative Peter W. Rodino Jr.,
chairman of the House Judi-
ciary committees.

Under the rules of con-
fidentiality adopted by your
committee, no matters dis-
cussed in executive sessions
are to be made public. In
response to your request, I
pledged to abide by these
rules of confidentiality and
have done so.

The experience of the three
executive sessions to date
demonstrates quite clearly
that there is hope that the
committee's rules of con-
fidentiality will be observed.
The reports in the media last
night and today provide clear
evidence that the evidentiary
materials presented in the
committee meetings are being
discussed in detail with
representatives of the media
and, what is even worse, are
being characterized by mem-
bers of the committee in a
distorted and extremely pre-
judicial manner.

It has also come to my
attention that at least one
of the documents prepared by
the committee staff and pre-
sented to the committee in
executive session was in the
possession of reporters from

The Washington Post last
night.

The selective "leaking" of
information from executive
sessions of your committee in
violation of the committee
rules is prejudicing the basic
right of the President to an
impartial inquiry on the
evidence.

I have discussed this mat-
ter with the President and, at
his direction, I respectfully
request that all further pro-
ceeding of your committee be
conducted in open session so
that the American people can
be fully informed with regard
to all the evidence presented.
I further request that the
record of the executive ses-
sions to date also be made
public.