

Impeaching Data to Be Made Public

Washington

The House Judiciary Committee voted yesterday to make public a massive volume of evidence presented to its impeachment inquiry.

But committee chairman Peter W. Rodino Jr. (Dem.-N.J.) left unclear when the material would be released and exactly how much would be made public.

Rodino said he hoped all of the material to be released would be published by July 15, when the committee is scheduled to begin debating proposed articles of impeachment. But he said it is possible some of the material would be released as early as next week.

A White House spokesman said, "We applaud the action of the committee in moving these hearings to a conclusion. They are finally making public information from the House of Judiciary Committee which has been meeting behind closed doors for seven weeks."

The committee voted 22 to 16 in favor of a motion that called for release of all the evidence except for classified material pertaining to the secret bombing of Cambodia and other evidence which Rodino and the ranking Republican, Representative Edward Hutchinson of Michigan, agreed should be withheld.

Representative Wayne Owens (Dem.-Utah), who offered the motion to release the evidence, said it would be made public "as soon as it can be physically published, probably early next week."

During seven weeks of closed hearings members of the committee have received some 7200 pages of evidentiary material contained in 36 loose-leaf notebooks.

In addition, the material to be released is expected to include additional evidence

offered by James St. Clair, President Nixon's chief Watergate lawyer. St. Clair is to begin his presentation to the committee tomorrow.

The material to be released will include evidence

Back Page Col. 2

From Page 1

turned over to the committee by a federal grand jury that indicted seven former administration and Nixon campaign aides for allegedly conspiring to block the investigation of the Watergate break-in.

Owens argued that there was "an overriding national interest" in releasing the material and said it would be made public regardless of any potential effect on Watergate trials.

The trial of former presidential aide John D. Ehrlichman and three others on charges stemming from the break-in at the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist is scheduled to start today.

The Republicans who voted to release the information were Joseph Maraziti of New Jersey, Henry Smith III of New York, Robert McClory of Illinois, William Cohen of Maine, Tom Railsback of Illinois and Harold V. Froehlich of Wisconsin.

Five Democrats joined the other eleven Republicans in opposing release. They were Barbara Jordan of Texas, Walter Flowers of Alabama, James Mann of South Carolina, Don Edwards of California and Ray Thornton of Arkansas.

Before going into closed session, the committee rejected, on a straight party-line vote of 21 to 17, a motion to subpoena the House clerk's records of dairy cooperative contributions to members of Congress.

Representative Wiley Mayne (Rep.-Iowa), in offering the motion, said that since the panel is investigating dairy industry contributions to Mr. Nixon's reelection campaign, "then in all fairness it must be considered against the relevant background that large contributions were also received by many members of Congress from the same organizations."

Associated Press