

NYTimes JUN 29 1974  
**SOME IN G.O.P. SAY  
RODINO IS BIASED  
ON IMPEACHMENT**

**Rodino Disavows Article on  
Panel Sentiment—White  
House Urges His Ouster**

By **DAVID E. ROSENBAUM**  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 28—

The chairman of the House Judiciary Committee was accused of bias today by some Republicans, and a White House spokesman called for him to be "discharged" from running the inquiry into the possible impeachment of President Nixon.

The partisan furor erupted as the result of a newspaper report quoting the chairman,

*Rodino remarks and Clawson statement are on Page 12.*

Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr., Democrat of New Jersey, as saying that all 21 Democrats on his committee were prepared to vote to recommend Mr. Nixon's impeachment.

Mr. Rodino took to the floor of the house this afternoon to deny and denounce the report, which appeared in today's editions of The Los Angeles Times, and afterward he said there was no chance that he would resign.

**'No Basis in Fact'**

Referring to the newspaper article, Mr. Rodino declared: "I want to state unequivocally and categorically that this statement is not true. There is no basis in fact for it, none whatsoever."

The article was written by Jack Nelson. He said today that he stood by what he had written.

Another reporter, Sam Donaldson of the American Broadcasting Company, said in a broadcast tonight that he had been at the lunchtime meeting in Mr. Rodino's office yesterday that was referred to in the article and that the chairman Rodino had, in fact, made the remarks attributed to him.

But Mr. Donaldson said Mr. Rodino had made clear that he had taken no nose count of his fellow Democrats but was only assessing how he believed they would vote.

Many Republicans and some Democrats complained angrily that the article showed that the

chairman had prejudged the case against the President before all the evidence was in and before witnesses had been heard by the impeachment inquiry.

**For Bipartisanship**

Many committee members believe that a spirit of bipartisanship is necessary for a resolution of the impeachment question that will be accepted by House members and the public.

They refused to speculate today on whether the alleged statement by Mr. Rodino and other partisan rifts would seriously damage the committee's work.

At the White House, Ken W.

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Clawson, director of communications for the executive branch, called for Mr. Rodino to be "discharged as chairman and replaced by a fair-minded Democrat." Mr. Clawson said: "Chairman Rodino's partisanship and the bias of other Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee was confirmed today out of Mr. Rodino's own mouth."

Today's squabble was the latest in a series of partisan ruptures that have developed in the committee in recent days.

There was a bruising fight Tuesday night over the calling of witnesses before the impeachment inquiry, and another dispute is expected Monday over whether to allow the witnesses to testify in public.

**St. Clair Satisfied**

Mr. Nixon's defense attorney, James D. St. Clair, said tonight that he was "satisfied" the committee members are going to wait until all the evidence is in." He said he did not believe that Mr. Rodino should quit.

If the newspaper account was accurate, this would be the first time Mr. Rodino had expressed a personal view of how he or other Democrats would stand on the question of impeachment.

But a number of other Democrats on the committee have said that they would vote for impeachment, and several senior Republicans have stated outright that they were not inclined to do so.

As the House convened at noon today, members of both parties gathered around a news service ticker just off the House floor and read the wire service account of the newspaper article.

Mr. Rodino heard about the complaints and, at the urging of the Speaker of the House, Representative Carl Albert of Oklahoma, took the unusual step of interrupting the debate on the floor to deliver a speech.

The speech delayed briefly the conclusion of the two-day presentation of evidence favorable to Mr. Nixon by Mr. St. Clair.

**St. Clair Presentation**

Yesterday, Mr. St. Clair presented evidence that, he said, exonerated the President of wrongdoing in the Watergate burglary, the cover-up of the burglary and the relationship between his Administration and the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation.

The attorney's presentation today dealt with campaign contributions from milk producers, the activities of the special White House unit known as the "plumbers," Administration wiretapping of officials and reporters and the President's underpayment of income taxes.

Mr. Rodino was clearly agitated during a seven-minute colloquy on the House floor. He seemed to feel that he had to defend his direction of the impeachment inquiry and the demeanor of the committee itself.

Mr. Rodino insisted that he had never asked any of his committee members "how he or she will vote." Rather, he said, he had warned throughout the inquiry that "only when there is a complete presentation of evidence should members draw a conclusion."

**Denies Plan to Resign**

He said that, if it became apparent that he had judged the evidence in advance and could not conduct the inquiry fairly, "I assure you that I would not be sitting as chairman, and I would withdraw myself from that capacity."

Asked afterward if he planned to resign, he responded sharply, "absolutely not."

A senior Republican committee member, Representative Robert McClory of Illinois, took the floor after Mr. Rodino's speech to defend his chairman. "I know the chairman has tenaciously avoided statements that would prejudice the case," Mr. McClory asserted.

Two of the committee's Southern Democrats, Representatives Ray Thornton of Arkansas and James R. Mann of South Carolina, also defended Mr. Rodino. They are considered among the Democratic members least likely to vote for impeachment.

But Representative Leslie C. Arends of Illinois, the House Republican whip, complained that the article about Mr. Rodino was "one of the most disturbing things I've seen since this thing started."

As Mr. Rodino left the well of the House and walked down the aisle toward the rear door, he was applauded by Democratic Representatives and by Republican Judiciary Committee members who had come to the floor to hear his statement. But Republicans who do not sit on the committee were silent.

Later, Representative C. W. Bill Young, a Florida Republican, rose on the floor and declared himself "an outspoken supporter of the President."

He said that the situation seemed to show what some had

suspected—that "some prejudgments might have been made" and that "maybe a scenario has been worked out in advance."

Then, Representative Lawrence J. Hogan, a Judiciary Committee member who announced yesterday his candidacy for the Republican nomination for Governor of Maryland, asserted that the impeachment inquiry had been anything but objective.

"I think it has been biased and it has been unfair," Mr. Hogan told the House.

Another Republican committee member, Representative Delbert L. Latta of Ohio, did not criticize Mr. Rodino's alleged statement but was highly critical of the committee's decision, at the urging of the chairman, to limit the witness list.

**Objects to Time Frame**

Standing at a microphone in the House chamber, Mr. Latta shouted at the top of his voice: "This idea of trying to compact our work into some time frame is something I object to and object to very strenuously."

Other committee Republicans, however, declined to criticize Mr. Rodino. Representative Wiley Mayne of Iowa, who has generally supported Mr. Nixon during the inquiry, declared: "Most members of the committee discounted the story as soon as they saw it. I know I did. I can't believe Mr. Rodino would be so injudicious as to make such a statement."

The ranking committee Republican, Representative Edward Hutchinson of Michigan, said he was "satisfied" that Mr. Rodino had not acted improperly.

Another senior Republican, Representative Henry P. Smith 3d of upstate New York, declared:

"The chairman has tried to be as fair as it's humanly possible to be. He's done a pretty good job under trying circumstances. I would hate to see him resign."

Committee members agreed that Mr. St. Clair presented little new evidence today but that he had arranged the evidence in such a way as to be most advantageous to President Nixon.

According to committee members, Mr. St. Clair produced material that, he said, showed that Mr. Nixon had created the plumbers unit because he was seriously and legitimately concerned that news leaks were damaging to national security.

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