

New Schedule for Impeachment

Washington

House leaders said yesterday they still hope the House will take its final impeachment votes and conclude the procedure by August 23 or 24, even though the Judiciary Committee is taking longer than had been expected to complete work on reporting out the articles.

One possibility, Majority Leader Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. (Dem-Mass.), told newsmen, would be to curtail slightly the time allotted to House debate, originally planned for two full weeks.

The expectation had been that the Judiciary Committee would end its sessions last Saturday, with start of debate in the House by August 12.

Now, O'Neill said, August 15 is a more likely starting date.

The Judiciary Committee is reported to want a full week to prepare the report that will accompany the articles sent to the House. Republicans who opposed impeachment are expected to add dissenting views.

The next step is for the Judiciary Committee to go before the Rules Committee,

with the report, and seek ground rules for the debate. This had been scheduled for August 5 but now probably will come a few days later.

The plan still is to ask for 60 to 100 hours of debate, O'Neill said, which might be compressed into about nine days of sessions, including Saturdays.

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