

House Formally Concludes Inquiry Into Impeachment

NYTimes By DAVID E. ROSENBAUM AUG 21 1974

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 20 — Without a trace of fanfare or drama and without a word of debate, the impeachment inquiry by the House of Representatives formally ended today.

It ended as it had begun 10 months ago. First, there was a private agreement among leaders of both parties about how to proceed. Then, the action was taken in the tried and true parliamentary language that the House uses day after day to conduct routine business.

At 1:50 P.M., Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr., chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, rose on the House floor and announced, "Mr. Speaker, I submit a privileged report pursuant to House Resolution 803."

That resolution had given the committee the right to act as an agent of the House, with all of the House's constitutional authority, in investigating whether former, President Richard M. Nixon should be impeached.

The Speaker of the House, Representative Carl Albert, responded in the same words and the same barely audible voice that he has used hundreds of other times when committee chairmen filed routine reports.

"This report," he said, "will be referred to the calendar and ordered to be printed."

Sets Our Evidence

But this report is not routine. Running about 200,000 words, it sets out the evidence that the Judiciary Committee found warranted Mr. Nixon's impeachment and removal from office. Had Mr. Nixon not resigned, this document would have formed the basis for the first House impeachment debate in more than a century.

Thus, the House Democratic and Republican leaders, working with Mr. Rodino, a New Jersey Democrat, and other committee members decided on a procedure that apparently was never used before.

It is important, Representative Robert W. Kastenmeier of Wisconsin, a ranking Democrat on the committee, said afterward, that "the impeachment matter not seem unresolved."

The three Representatives voting against the resolution were Earl F. Landgrebe, Republican of Indiana; G.V. Montgomery, Democrat of Mississippi, and Otto E. Passman, Democrat of Louisiana.

Neither Mr. Landgrebe nor Mr. Montgomery offered a public comment on his vote, but Mr. Passman stated:

All three men were strong supporters of Mr. Nixon. Mr.

Landgrebe said after the vote that he did not approve of the House's voting to accept the report and did not want to commend the Judiciary Committee for its work.

Mr. Montgomery said that he did not "like the idea of having to vote on something as important as this without having seen the report."

Mr. Passman made the following statement:

"I contend that Richard M. Nixon is the greatest President this country ever had. Rather than take any chance of doing anything offensive to this great man, I decided to vote 'NO.'"

A draft of the impeachment report was obtained by The New York Times last week. It concluded that the evidence against the President was "overwhelming."

3 Could Not Recall

As an example of its thoroughness, the draft contained a footnote listing the number of times that three high officials of the Nixon Administration had sworn under oath that they could not recall information sought by investigators.

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The footnote stated that H. R. Haldeman, Mr. Nixon's former chief of staff, had so testified 206 times, that John D. Ehrlichman, the former chief domestic counselor, had done so 136 times, and that John N. Mitchell, the former Attorney General and campaign director, had done so 255 times.

Committee officials said that the final version of the report did not differ markedly from the draft.

A copy of the final report was not available today. The only copy, Mr. Rodino said, was given to the Government Printing Office to be printed.

John J. Boyle, the deputy public printer, said the report would be printed by Thursday afternoon. He announced that, in addition to the bound copies, the report would be published in the issue of the Congressional Record dated Aug. 22, which will be available Friday morning.

The bound copies and copies of the Congressional Record may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402.

Mr. Boyle said that he did not know yet how much the bound copies would cost. The price for one issue of the Congressional Record is 25 cents.

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