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WASHINGTON, Dec. 20 —

John M. Doar, after being selected to direct a Congressional inquiry into the possible impeachment of President Nixon, pledged today to see that "justice is done, that the Constitution is preserved and fairness occurs."

But there was a mixed reaction to the choice of Mr. Doar, a Republican with close ties to the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations, to be special counsel to the House Judiciary Committee for the impeachment investigation.

Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr., of New Jersey, the committee's Democratic chairman, said at a Capitol Hill news conference that he had instructed Mr. Doar to serve as the legal adviser to the full panel, not merely to the Democratic majority.

The selection of Mr. Doar was applauded by Melvin R. Laird, President Nixon's departing domestic counselor and, like Mr. Doar, a Republican whose roots are in Wisconsin.

A Dissenting Voice

But Representative Edward Hutchinson of Michigan, the senior Republican on the Judiciary Committee, declined in an interview to endorse Mr. Rodino's guarantee that Mr. Doar would be a bipartisan staff director.

"We had no input at all on it," Mr. Hutchinson said. "I met [Mr. Doar] yesterday, briefly, for the first time. I don't know him. I want to make it clear his appointment was not bipartisan."

The appointment, which had been expected, was announced formally by Mr. Rodino at a

Capitol Hill news conference this morning.

The committee chairman, emphasizing his desire to conduct the inquiry "in an orderly, lawful, dignified way," said that he hoped it could be concluded by April, but that he was "not going to be locked in by that date."

Mr. Doar, who is 52 years old, was apparently selected partly because of his bipartisan background. He was appointed to the Justice Department in 1960 by President Eisenhower and, as an Assistant Attorney General for civil rights, stayed on under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson to direct the Government's desegregation efforts during most of a turbulent decade.

Resigned Self-Help Post

He resigned Friday after six years as director of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Development and Services Corporation, the Brooklyn self-help organization formed by the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

Reminded that he had once described himself as a "reformer" and had said, "I like to run against the dragon," Mr. Doar said today that he did not foresee any dragons lurking in the impeachment issue. "I'm a lawyer," he said. "I like to take on difficult cases. I like to prepare cases. To me, success is seeing that justice is done, that the Constitution is preserved and fairness occurs."

Mr. Doar stressed that he saw his role as that of legal adviser to the 38 members of the Judiciary Committee "in meeting their responsibilities, their inescapable responsibilities."

Mr. Laird's approval of the appointment was disclosed by

Mr. Rodino, who said that the White House official had telephoned during the news conference and left a message "commending" the choice.

Representative Hutchinson was clearly reluctant to make a similar appraisal, however. Asked by a Rodino assistant to sit beside the committee chairman and Mr. Doar at the news conference, Mr. Hutchinson first balked, then agreed, but sat several feet from Mr. Doar with his chair turned sideways as if he were a spectator.

Leaves Conference Early

Mr. Hutchinson, responding to a routine House quorum call, left the news conference before it ended and without making any comment.

"The man says he's going to be fair," Mr. Hutchinson said later of Mr. Doar. "Let's hope he is. I'll take him at his word unless it's demonstrated otherwise."

Mr. Doar, whose salary was set at \$36,000 a year, went to work immediately as the senior aide on the impeachment inquiry.

Almost at the same time, a Baltimore civic leader, Anna Clinkscales, handed to President Nixon at the White House a petition bearing 10,000 signatures of people who oppose the impeachment effort.

Mrs. Clinkscales said that the sentiment "comes from our own hearts, and we really believe in you as President of the United States."

Mr. Nixon gave her cuff links, a tie pin and a candy dish, all embossed with the Presidential seal, and told her that she had provided him with "a very nice Christmas present."

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