

Bipartisan Pledge on Impeaching

Washington

Top Republicans and Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee pledged a united effort yesterday in their investigation of grounds for the possible impeachment of President Nixon.

The display of bipartisanship, missing earlier in the inquiry, followed the hiring of Albert E. Jenner, 66, a Chicago trial lawyer, as chief minority counsel for the investigation.

He joins John Doar, a former assistant attorney general selected December 20 as chief counsel by Judiciary Committee Chairman

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Peter W. Rodino (Dem.-N.J.) at the head of a growing staff that is conducting the first presidential impeachment inquiry in more than a century.

Jenner's appointment was announced by Representative Edward Hutchison (Rep.-Mich.), the senior committee Republican, at a briefing by Doar on the progress of the inquiry.

Ten members interrupted their holiday recess to attend the closed-door meeting. The House is not scheduled to reconvene until January 21.

Jenner, a Republican, was senior counsel to the presidential commission that investigated the assassination of John F. Kennedy, and was a member of the Presidential Commission on Causes and Prevention of Violence created by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Rodino, Hutchison, Doar and Jenner all said the Republican and Democratic members of the staff will work together on the investigation.

"This is a joint effort."



UPI Telephoto

COUNSEL JOHN DOAR (RIGHT) AND REPRESENTATIVE PETER RODINO
Information on possible impeachment case is piling up

said Jenner. "There is no controversy whatsoever among the staff with respect to this tremendous responsibility."

After the meeting, Rodino held to his prediction that the committee should be able to complete its investigation and be ready to report to the House by late April.

Rodino also said the committee will ask the House when it reconvenes January 21 to give it power to subpoena persons and documents for the inquiry. The committee's subpoena power does not now extend to impeachment proceedings, he said.

The chairman also said there has been no decision whether public hearings will be held. Earlier there had been some discussion of holding public hearings on the question of what constitutes an impeachable offense. This was not discussed yesterday, and several members said this must be a personal decision by each member.