HOUSE, 410-4, GIVES SUBPOENA POWER IN NIXQU** INQUIRY

Judiciary Panel Is Authorized To Summon Anyone, Including President, With Evidence

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By JAMES M. NAUGHTON Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6-The House of Representatives voted 410 to 4 today to grant the Judiciary Committee broad. constitutional power to investigate President Nixon's conluct. The House thus formally ratified the impeachment inquiry begun by the committee last October and empow-

ered the panel to subpoena anyone, including the President, with evidence pertinent to the investigation.

It was only the second time in the nation's history that such a step, directed at a President, had been taken in the House. But the roll-call vote was not a test of impeachment sentiment.

The vote followed an hour of debate in which no one rose to defend Mr. Nixon, but Democrats and Republicans quarreled over the best method to guarantee that the inquiry would not become partisan.

'No Other Way'

The tone was struck by the Judiciary Committee chairman, Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr., Democrat o New Jersev, when he told an unusually attentive House:

"Whatever the result, what-ever we learn or conclude, let us now proceed with such care and decency and thoroughness an honor that the vast majority of the American people, and their children after them, will say: This was the right course. There was no other way."

The four members who opposed the resolution, all Republicans, were Ben B. Blackburn of Georgia, Earl F. Landbrebe of Indiana, Carolos J. Moorhead of California and David C. Treen of Louisiana.

Mr. Moorhead, a member of the Judiciary Committee, objected that the resolution gave tthe panel such unrestricted sub poena power that it "can only precipitate a constitutional confrontation and further divide th people of our country."

The significance of the House action was illustrated by Mr. Rodino's statement that the Continued on Page 22, Column 4



at Mr. Rodino. "The gentleman from New Jersey does also," Mr. Rodino

He told newsmen later that no decisions would be made within the next few days on requests for evidence to either the White House or to the Watergate special prosecutor, Leon Jaworski.

The resolution was adopted after the House rejected, 342 to 70, a parliamentary effort to open the measure to amendments that would have set an April 30 deadline for completion of the inquiry and allowed the committee's senior Repub-lican to issue subpoenas inde-pendly.

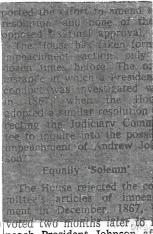
'Good with Me'

Representative John J. Rhodes of Arizona, the House Republican Leader, signaled the fate of the parliamentary maneuver when he declared that Mr. Rodino's pledge to conduct the inquiry fairly and expeditiously was "good with me."

Only 67 of 178 Republicans voting on the issue and 3 of 234 Democrats disagreed and sought unsuccessfully adoption of the restrictions.

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As approved, the measure





peach President Johnson he dismissed Secretary of War Edward M. Stanton. The Sensubsequently acquitted

Johnson.

Referring to the Johnson impeachment, Mr. Rhodes described the House proceeding today as an equally "solemn occasion."

What the House concludes in Mr. Nixon's case, said Representative Elizabeth Holtzman, Democrat of Brooklyn, "will stand for all time. We will act expeditiously, but we will act soundly." soundly."

Mr. Rodino also referred to

the need for sensitivity and caution.

"For almost 200 years," he said, "Americans have undergone the stress of preserving their freedom and the Constitution that protects it. It is our turn now."