

Sfe

MAY 20 1974

2 Judiciary Members on The Leaks

Washington

Two House Judiciary Committee members, a Republican and a Democrat, agreed yesterday that impeachment hearings should be opened to the public to prevent news leaks. But they said White House criticism of such leaks was "hypocritical."

Representatives Wayne Owens (Dem-Utah) and William S. Cohen (Rep-Maine) also said the 1300 page White House-edited transcript of President Nixon's taped Watergate conversations was inadequate for their inquiry because of deletions and ambiguities.

The two men were interviewed on CBS' "Face the Nation."

They said that because some information presented in closed session has been leaked to the news media, they would support a proposal to open the hearings to the public and television cameras.

Cohen said it was a "deplorable act" for any committee or staff member to leak information. But, he added, "It is somewhat inconsistent, if not hypocritical, of the White House to complain with moral outrage about selected leaking when there appears to be some selected editing" of the transcripts released by the White House.

Owens indicated he agreed and added that the Judiciary Committee has gained little new information during 19 hours of closed hearings. Any well-informed reader would know "90 per cent" of what the committee has learned, he said.

United Press