

John Michael Doar

By **RICHARD L. MADDEN**

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 11—
 "I'm a lawyer. I like to take
 on difficult cases. I like to
 prepare cases. To me, suc-
 cess is seeing that justice is
 done, that the Constitution is

Man fairness occurs."
 in the Michael Doar's
 News description of
 himself last De-
 cember when he

was selected to head the im-
 peachment inquiry staff of
 the House Judiciary Commit-
 tee. And the way Mr. Doar
 methodically prepares cases
 was demonstrated today
 when the committee made
 public the first massive in-
 tallment of 4,133 pages of
 evidentiary information that
 Mr. Doar and his staff of
 more than 100 have prepared
 for the members of the com-
 mittee, who are considering
 the possible impeachment of
 President Nixon.

The tall, lanky, curly-haired
 Mr. Doar has described his
 \$36,000-a-year job as that of
 legal adviser to the 38 mem-
 bers of the Judiciary Com-
 mittee—involving the assem-
 bling and supervising of the
 presentation of the evidence
 to the elected members of
 the committee who ultimate-
 ly will have to decide
 whether the case warrants
 sending articles of impeach-
 ment against the President to
 the House.

His strategy in the closed
 committee sessions up to now
 has been to present the avail-
 able evidence chronologically
 to the committee at a pace
 that some committee mem-
 bers have found frustrating
 because it is so plodding.

But in the highly charged
 political atmosphere sur-
 rounding the impeachment
 inquiry, the 52-year-old Mr.
 Doar, who seldom smiles in
 public and shuns interviews,
 is generally credited by Re-
 publicans as well as Democ-
 rats on the committee with
 having conducted the steps
 so far in a thorough and
 even-handed manner.

"He has played it abso-
 lutely right down the middle,"
 said one Democrat on the
 committee. "He has scrupu-
 lously expressed no opinion
 on whether he thought the
 President should be im-
 peached."

Could 'Put You to Sleep'

Another Democrat said,
 "John Doar could read 'the
 Happy Hooker' aloud and
 put you to sleep."

What role Mr. Doar will
 play in the near future as
 the committee gets down to
 voting on impeachment is an
 item of speculation among
 some committee members
 who wonder whether he will
 continue his middle-ground
 stance or become an advoca-
 te as the committee pro-
 ceeds.

Mr. Doar's past reputation
 has been built on a coolness
 under fire and a tenacity for

gathering facts. He is better
 known for his skill in pre-
 paring cases than for his in-
 vestigative or court room
 work.

"Facts, facts, facts," he
 used to instruct young law-
 yers in the Justice Depart-
 ment who brought him vague
 briefs. Perhaps that stemmed
 from his early days in the
 department when he was
 once reprimanded by a judge
 for failing to produce enough
 evidence. After that he al-
 ways showed up with stacks
 of affidavits and exhaustive
 records.

Mr. Doar was born Dec. 3,
 1932, in Minneapolis and
 grew up in New Richmond,
 Wis., where his father was a
 lawyer. He was graduated
 from Princeton University
 and the University of Cal-
 ifornia Law School, Berke-
 ley, and went back to New
 Richmond to practice law
 until 1960.

Mr. Doar, a former Repub-
 lican who later became an
 independent when he headed
 a Brooklyn self-help organi-
 zation that received Federal
 Funds, came to Washington
 in 1960 in the last year of
 the Eisenhower Administra-
 tion as first assistant in the
 Civil Rights Division of the
 Justice Department. He
 stayed on through the Ken-
 nedy and Johnson Admini-
 strations and eventually be-
 came Assistant Attorney
 General in charge of the di-
 vision.

Headed School Board

It was the civil rights case
 in the South that injected
 Mr. Doar into national promi-
 nence in the nineteen-
 sixties, prosecuting voting
 rights cases, riding with the
 Freedom Riders, and striding
 one day in 1963 into a crowd
 of Negroes in Jackson, Miss.,
 who were bent on avenging
 the murder of Medgar W.
 Evers, and persuading the
 crowd to drop the stones and
 bottles.

He was president of the
 New York City Board of
 Education in 1968 and 1969
 during the bitter fight over
 decentralizing the local
 school districts, and from
 late 1969 until his appoint-
 ment to the impeachment in-
 quiry was director of the
 Bedford-Stuyvesant Develop-
 ment and Services Corpora-
 tion in Brooklyn, A self-help
 organization formed by the
 late Senator Robert F.
 Kennedy.

He was divorced last year
 from the former Anne Lef-
 fingwell. They had four
 children.

Mr. Doar once described
 himself as "a reformer at
 heart—I like to run against
 the dragon."

But when he took on the
 impeachment inquiry, Mr.
 Doar said he did not see any
 dragons lurking in the im-
 peachment issue.