

# Justice Agency Is Facing Inquiry by a House Panel

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By MARTIN TOLCHIN JUN 16 1973

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WASHINGTON, June 15—The House Judiciary Committee plans to investigate the "politicization" of the Justice Department, Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr., the committee chairman, said today.

Mr. Rodino, a New Jersey Democrat, said in a 90-minute interview:

"As a result of Watergate, I have seen the obvious need for the examination of the Justice Department, which in my opinion has been politicized. The question is, is the Attorney General the Attorney General of the President, a particular party or the people of the United States?"

"Why did we have to go to a special prosecutor in the Watergate case? he asked, and then answered his question by saying, "Because there was a serious question about whether the Department of Justice could effectively prosecute the case."

The chairman said that he had not discussed the investigation with Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson. A Justice Department press spokesman had no comment.

Mr. Rodino said that he expected open hearings on the department to begin near the end of the year or on the beginning of next year.

Later this month, however, the committee will hold hearings on alleged monopolistic practices of the food industry, he said.

## Officials Face Inquiry

"We will begin by calling in the Antitrust Division of the antitrust authority," he said.

The committee will then investigate the gasoline crisis, Mr. Rodino said, to determine whether the major companies have conspired to drive the independent distributors out of business.

"We will try to determine whether the Justice Depart-

ment has exercised proper vigilance in this area," he said.

Another inquiry will be made into "unlawful searches and seizures" made by Federal narcotics officers, Mr. Rodino said.

It was reported last April that two families in Collinsville, Ill., had been terrorized by Federal narcotics agents who crashed into their homes, put pistols to their heads and ransacked their houses.

The committee will also investigate the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Mr. Rodino said. He said that William D. Ruckelshaus, acting director of the Bureau, urged more legislative oversight in a speech June 6 at Ohio State University.

"There must be effective oversight of all F.B.I. activities," Mr. Ruckelshaus said in his speech. "This essential review and check should come from both the executive and legislative branches of our Government. In my opinion, legislative oversight is not sufficient today and needs to be strengthened."

Mr. Rodino said that the format of the entire investigation had not yet been determined but that open hearings would follow an investigation of about six months.