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# Impeachment Move Offered

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Rep. Robert F. Drinan (D-Mass.) yesterday became the first member of Congress to introduce a resolution to impeach President Nixon, and seemed to be about the only one who believed the time is ripe to try.

Drinan introduced a one-sentence resolution stating that "Richard M. Nixon, President of the United States, is impeached of high crimes and misdemeanors."

It was referred to the House Judiciary Committee, whose chairman, Rep. Peter Rodino (D-N.J.), said he would have to give careful consideration to what if any action should be taken on it. Drinan could have called for an immediate House vote, but said he felt committee investigation should come first.

A survey of members in both houses produced a near-unanimous belief that Drinan's action was premature, that Congress should wait till all the findings

from the Watergate investigation are in.

Drinan, a Jesuit priest and former dean of the Boston College law school whose name appeared on "enemies list" revealed during the Senate Watergate hearings, filed no bill of particulars specifying grounds for removing Mr. Nixon from office.

He said in a statement announcing his action, however, that he was moved to act by the "recent disclosure

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that President Nixon conducted a totally secret air war in Cambodia for 14 months prior to April 30, 1970.

On that date, said Drinan, Mr. Nixon announced that the United States had "scrupulously" observed the neutrality of Cambodia, though he had "full knowledge that he had personally ordered thousands of B-52 raids over Cambodia." Drinan raised the question of whether the \$140 million spent on the 1969-70 bombings had been obtained from Congress "under false pretenses and spent in an unconstitutional manner."

Drinan said the House should also seek to answer the questions of whether Mr. Nixon committed impeachable offenses by:

- Taping all of his conversations on the telephone or in his office without the knowledge of others taking part.

- Continuing to refuse to spend billions in appropriated funds, despite the fact that "every court that has ruled on the question of impoundment has decided against the administration." (The Supreme Court has not ruled on this question.)

- Establishing a "super-secret security force within the White House" (the "plumbers" who sought to plug security leaks), by which the President took over the "statutory tasks of the FBI and the CIA."

The near-unanimous view of other members yesterday was that the evidence on which to decide impeachment is not yet in, and that the House should begin no

formal proceedings until the Senate Watergate Committee and special prosecutor Archibald Cox have completed their investigations.

Under the Constitution, the President may be removed from office for "treason, bribery or other high crimes and misdemeanors." Two steps must be taken. First, the House, functioning roughly as an indicting grand jury, must by majority vote impeach the President; that is, find probable cause that he has committed an impeachable offense. Then, the Senate by a two-thirds vote must convict him. This has never happened, though after the Civil War the House took the first step against President Andrew Johnson.

House Majority Leader Thomas P. O'Neill (D-Mass.) tried to talk Drinan out of filing his resolution yesterday morning. O'Neill said he told Drinan: "It's too early. We've got to wait to get all the evidence."

From a political standpoint, O'Neill has urged all along and reiterated yesterday that Democrats should lie low, and let Republicans cut themselves up, rather than do anything precipitate that could make the President appear a martyr.

Rep. Paul McCloskey (R-Calif.), who campaigned briefly for President against Mr. Nixon on the war issue last year, said there is no climate for impeachment in the House now, but expressed the belief that Drinan's action would force an inquiry.

Rep. John E. Moss (D-Calif.), who has long urged creation of a special committee of inquiry to assemble

information that would be available if impeachment proceedings were brought, also said the House is not ready yet to move either on a preliminary inquiry or on impeachment. He believes the House should have acted earlier on his proposal, but thinks it will now wait until the Senate investigation is over.

One House Democratic liberal who personally believes Mr. Nixon was involved in Watergate said: "We haven't got enough on him. The Senate committee is building a case of massive mismanagement, but that isn't impeachable."

Other members repeated the oft-made statement that no impeachment effort would stand a chance unless mounted by moderates. Drinan lines up with the liberal left.

Comment from Senate Democrats of every hue was that Drinan's resolution was premature.

"I don't think there is any evidence on which to base such a resolution at this period," said Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis.).

"I think it would behoove us all to keep our shirts on; all the facts aren't in," said Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield.

"I don't think Congress and the American people have heard sufficient evidence to warrant such a procedure," said Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.).

"A little premature and ill-advised," said Sen. John Pastore (D-R.I.).

"I don't think they'll get anywhere with the evidence they have at this point," said Sen. Russell B. Long (D-La.).