

# Impeachment action continuing in House

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WASHINGTON — Speaker Carl Albert said today a House inquiry would proceed into whether any grounds exist for impeachment in spite of President Nixon's decision to give up recordings of his Watergate conversations.

Referring to action by House Democratic leaders yesterday calling for the Judiciary Committee to undertake the preliminary investigation, Albert told reporters:

"They have been mandated to make an inquiry and they have said an inquiry they are going to make. I hope it is expeditious and I hope that we can lay to rest this issue one way or another."

Earlier House Judiciary Chairman Peter W. Rodino Jr. raised the possibility of subpoenaing Nixon administration records for the panel's preliminary inquiry into impeachment of the President.

The New Jersey Democrat said that did not necessarily mean he wants to subpoena the evidence gathered by special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox before President Nixon fired Cox.

But Rodino repeated that his insistence that Cox's files be kept intact for possible use by others still stands.

Rodino said for now he intends only to have his committee consider general use of subpoena powers in its inquiry into whether there are grounds for impeaching the President.

Democratic floor leader Thomas P. O'Neill said in a

House speech that release of the tapes "has not changed the status of the planned inquiry."

O'Neill added:

"The House is not driving toward any preordained objective but is conducting a careful inquiry and the House leadership repeats its stand of yesterday that it is ready to give the committee any needed extra staffing or other resources it needs to carry out the inquiry."

Many members of the House were awaiting President Nixon's public explanation of his firing of Archibald Cox as Watergate special prosecutor, and his subsequent

release of the tapes, but others continued to press for impeachment.

"It doesn't change a thing," Rep. B. F. Sisk, Fresno (D-Calif.) said of Nixon's action giving up the tapes.

The ranking Democratic member of the judiciary committee, Rep. Harold D. Donohue (D-Mass.) said, "The crisis in national confidence . . . notwithstanding his late-hour agreement to release the tapes . . . leaves the Congress no choice other than to immediately inquire into the existence of sufficient grounds for presidential impeachment."

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Speaker Carl Albert, right, confers with Rep. Peter Rodino (D-N.J.)

—AP Photo