

# 'Full Speed Ahead' On Impeachment

## Washington

House Democrats persisted yesterday with their investigation to determine whether grounds exist for impeaching President Nixon.

"We're moving full speed ahead," said House Judiciary Committee chairman Peter W. Rodino Jr. (Dem-N.J.) after his second long meeting of the day with Democrats on the committee.

Rodino said that the committee would investigate any allegations of "impeachable offenses." Other committee members said that these would include, but not be limited to, the secret bombing of Cambodia in 1970, a short-lived Nixon administration plan for burglary and wiretapping of suspected subversives, and the President's refusal to spend funds appropriated by Congress.

Representative Jerome R.

Waldie (Dem-Calif.), one of the first on the committee to call for impeachment, said the "most easily provable" ground for impeachment would be obstruction of justice by the President for firing special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox.

Waldie said at a news conference Cox was fired "when he got too close to the President." Proof of that, he said, would indicate obstruction of justice.

"The outlook is excellent for impeachment," Waldie said.

### ALBERT

Speaker Carl Albert said the release by Mr. Nixon of White House Watergate tapes to U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica has not altered the decision of the Democratic leadership to continue its investigation.

"The (Judiciary) committee has been mandated to make an inquiry, and an in-

quiry it will make," Albert said at a news conference. "I hope it is expeditious, and I hope it lays this thing to rest one way or another."

Majority leader Thomas P. O'Neill (Dem-Mass.) followed up with a House speech, pledging full support of the Democratic leadership for the judiciary committee, including extra money to hire additional staff.

"The House is not driving toward a pre-ordained conclusion," O'Neill said. "It is making a careful, thorough inquiry into grounds for possible impeachment. We owe the American people such a thorough inquiry."

### POWER

The Democratic majority on the Judiciary Committee decided unanimously yesterday that they would seek subpoena powers for their chairman as the first step toward possible impeachment.

Although the Republicans were expected to try to block the move, the unanimity of the Democrats, controlling 21 of the 38 seats on the committee, assured that chairman Peter Rodino Jr. (Dem-N.J.) would be given the power when the committee holds its first impeachment meeting on Tuesday.

Nineteen of the 21 Democrats on the committee decided at a later meeting yesterday to endorse the proposal of the leaders, to push for elimination of a rule requiring two days' notice before a committee meeting can be held and to assign measures that propose creation of a special prosecutors' office to a subcommittee headed by Representative William L. Hungate (Dem-Mo.).

The committee's 17 Republicans met still later and unanimously agreed to oppose the subpoena proposal at Tuesday's meeting.

Rodino insisted that the committee still intended to conduct the inquiry into whether any impeachable offenses have been committed at the same time it considers the nomination of Gerald R. Ford to be Vice President.

### RESOLUTIONS

Waldie was the author of one of seven impeachment resolutions that were introduced in the House of Representatives on Tuesday. Among other resolution authors was Representative Paul N. McCloskey (Rep-Calif.).

There now are eight impeachment resolutions before the House. The first was introduced July 31 by Representative Robert F. Drinan (Dem-Mass.).

A continuing flood of mail, telegrams and telephone calls, demanding Mr. Nixon's impeachment, was reported by congressional aides, most of it originating after the turnabout on the tapes.

A.P. & U.P.