

A Pledge On Probe Of Nixon

Washington

The chairman of the congressional committee inquiring into the possible impeachment of President Nixon pledged yesterday to conduct a cautious, thorough and bipartisan investigation.

Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr. (Dem-N.J.), whose House Judiciary Committee will meet today to set some procedural guidelines for the impeachment inquiry, said in an interview last night that there may be some who already have decided that the President ought to be impeached. But his mail indicates that "many others are looking to us for guidance," he added.

Rodino's judgment appeared to be borne out in the findings of the latest Gallup Poll, which indicated yesterday that a majority of Americans have lost confidence in the Nixon administration but are nonetheless reluctant to seek the President's removal from office.

Rodino declined to speculate on when the impeachment hearings might begin or how soon the committee could be expected to reach a decision on whether to recommend that the full House of Representatives impeach—that is, indict—Mr. Nixon.

"This can't be a partisan effort," Rodino said. "This has to be something that all of our members understand—an attempt to clear the air. If we find there are impeachable offenses, then we've got to move ahead. If not, fine."

New York Times