Rodino Wins Power To Seek Nixon Data

By Richard L. Lyons Washington Post Staff Writer

The House Judiciary Committee fell into partisan wrangling yesterday at its first meeting to discuss procedures for investigating whether President Nixon should be impeached.

By a straight party line vote of 21 to 17, Democrats voted to give Chairman Pe-W. ter W. Rodino (D-N.J.) power to issue—without fur-ther committee approval— (D-N.J.) subpoenas to obtain witnesses and documents both for the impeachment in-quiry and for the commit-tee's consideration of House Minority Leader Gerald R. Ford to be Vice President.

Rejected by the same vote were Republican efforts to require approval of subpoenas by their senior member, ep. Edward Hutchinson (R-'lich.), and to give both men ower to issue subpoenas on heir own. Democrats pro-

tested that the minority party should not be given a veto over subpoenas. Republicans complained of "steamroller" tactics by the licans majority.

Rodino promised to "fully consult" with Hutchinson before issuing subpoenas and pledged "no partisan crusade or witch hunt" in either proceeding.

ther proceeding.

Rep. Thomas Railsback
(R-III.) said Republicans
were "trying to signal our
concern... to make clear"
that the impeachment inquiry "must be judicious,
careful and nonpartisan or
bipartisan." He said Republicans are "tired of leaks
and slipshod procedures"
that were charged in investithat were charged in investi-gating, Watergate and for-mer Vice President Agnew.

Republicans on the committee were not consulted

See IMPEACH, A5, Col. 1

IMPEACH, From A1

on the impeachment inquiry. until they made public protest last week, said Railsback, and still don't know what provisions will be made for their full participation.

With less bickering, the committee agreed to reduce from two days to one day the notice Rodino must give for calling a committee meeting to deal with the impeachment or Ford inquir-

Rodino said he asked for both rules changes in good part to help speed consideration of Ford's nomination. But he gave no answer to Republican requests that he set a date for hearings on Ford.

The chairman later told reporters he expected to be able to set a date by next week after he and Hutchinson have gone over the 1,400 pages of raw files that the FBI has accumulated on Ford. Under Justice Department rules only these two men may see the unevaluated data. The same restriction applies in the Senate Rules Committee, Ford's confirmation where hearings start Thursday.

Hutchinson said he had

been told that the FBI investigation "turned up nothing of substance which would be any obstacle in the way of confirmation of Mr. Ford." He did not name his source.

Rodino said Ford's nomination will not be "held hostage for any other purpose", a pledge Democratic leaders

have felt compelled to make repeatedly because of some suspicion that Democrats would like to delay Ford's nomination in hopes that Mr. Nixon would be forced out of office.

In that event House Speaker Carl Albert would become President. Albert repeated his desire yesterday that Ford's nomination be considered as expeditiously as possible consistent with the need for a thorough inquiry, and added the hope that the House could vote on Fod befoe Thanksgiving. This appeared sooner than Rodino's present schedule would permit.

Inca related action, the House Judiciary Committee approved without opposition a bill extending for six months and a possible second six months the federal grand jury here investigating the Watergate break-in and cover-up.

Students and Lawyers Lobby Against Nixon

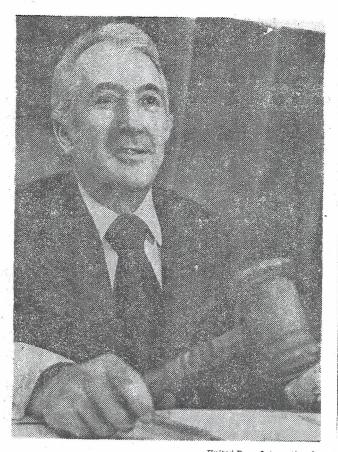
Several hundred law students and lawyers began lobbying Congress yesterday for the appointment of a Watergate special prosecutor and continued investigation of possible impeachment proceedings against Nixon.

Organizers said 350 persons, primarily students, started the campaign by presenting petitions and legal memoranda to congress-

Robert Pietrazak, a thirdyear Columbia University student who acted as a spokesman, said, "We're not calling for impeachment per se at this point because we

se at this point because we believe in due process of law, which Richard Nixon does not."

The law students came from Boston University, Catholic University, New York University, University of Pennsylvania, St. John's University of Pittsburgh and the University of Virginia or University of Virginia, organizers said. Other law schools are scheduled to lobby Congress later, they said.



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Rep. Rodino: ". . . no partisan crusade or witch hunt."