

House Panel Forbidden A Shredder

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The House Judiciary Committee, which is looking into destruction of Watergate records as part of its impeachment inquiry, requested and was denied permission to buy a "Destroyit Super-speed" paper shredder.

Chairman Peter W. Rodino Jr. (D-N.J.) requested purchase of the shredder from the House Administration Committee, the house-keeping panel for congressional supplies.

Rep. Wayne L. Hays (D-Ohio), chairman of the Administration Committee, replied to Rodino:

"Reference is made to your request of Dec. 14, 1973 to purchase a 'Destroyit Superspeed' Series 52AM paper shredder for use by your committee.

"I have been under the impression that your committee was going to investigate paper shredding and possibly other activities hiding public business for the public rather than to obtain a shredder and shredding on its own.

"The request is not approved."

The Rodino panel is accumulating a massive supply of records as part of its inquiry into whether there are grounds to proceed with impeachment of President Nixon.

[A spokesman for Rodino acknowledged that the request "hadn't been thought out. We're not even at the stage of having something to shred."]