

Impeachment Held Not a Criminal Trial

Special investigator John M. Doar said yesterday it might not be necessary to show that President Nixon had committed criminal offenses to impeach him.

Chairman Peter Rodino (D-N.J.) of the House Judiciary Committee, who named Doar Thursday to head the committee's inquiry into possible impeachment proceedings, said he hopes for a preliminary report from Doar when Congress re-convenes Jan. 21. Rodino set a target date of late March or early April to complete committee hearings.

Doar, appearing with Rodino on the NBC-TV Today show, said he had not made up his mind whether it would be necessary to show the Mr. Nixon had committed criminal acts, but "a considerable body of authority says it does not have to be a criminal offense"

to justify impeachment.

An impeachment proceeding, he said, is not a criminal trial, although "many of the elements of fairness" of a trial have to have a place in impeachment, "and the Judiciary Committee will see that they do have a place."

Rodino said, "We are going

to try to have open hearings in every case possible," but there would be closed sessions if the committee heard witnesses "who would be producing evidence and information we think might be subject to grand jury proceedings, in order to make sure no rights are violated."