

Impeachment Prober Asks For Evidence

Washington

The House Judiciary committee went to court for the first time yesterday to obtain information for its impeachment inquiry of President Nixon.

In a motion filed with U.S. district court here, the committee's special counsel, John Doar, asked access to information already provided to the Senate's Watergate committee on financial records of the Committee to Re-Elect the President. The action is expected to be uncontested.

The records sought are those involved in a still pending civil suit brought by Common Cause the citizens' lobby, against the reelection committee to learn the sources and amounts of contributions be made public.

The records and depositions taken from about a dozen persons were made available to the Senate committee by agreement of Common Cause and the reelection committee. Doar's office said the parties have also agreed to make them available to the House committee and that the court proceedings should be a pro forma action.

About \$20 million was collected by the re-election committee for the campaign in the pre-April 7 period when it was supposed they could be kept secret. These contributions have since

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been identified under court order.

A Common Cause spokesman said documents involved, which are still kept secret under court order and which presumably could not be made public by the House Committee, include a deposition from the President's close friend, Charles G. Bebe) Rebozo, who received and subsequently returned a \$100,000 campaign contribution for the President from Howard Hughes.

Another deposition was taken from Patrick J. Hillings, an attorney for milk producers who made a large contributions to the campaign. Also under court seal is a list compiled by the President's secretary, Rose Mary Woods, of pre-April 7 contributions.

At the Capitol, House minority leader John J. Rhodes called on committee Democrats who have sponsored impeachment resolutions against the President to disqualify themselves from voting on the issue.

Rhodes said in an interview for the Republican congressional committee newsletter that in deciding whether to recommend impeachment to the House the committee is sitting as both judge and jury.

"As a matter of honest justice" members who have said Mr. Nixon should be impeached for Watergate or other matters should not take part in the committee vote expected in the later part of April, Rhodes said.

Any judge who had made such statements in advance would not be allowed to try a case, said Rhodes.

"Baloney," replied representative Robert Drinan (Dem-Mass.), one of three members on the 38-member committee who have sponsored impeachment resolutions. The other are representatives Jerome Waldie (Dem-Calif.), and Charles Rangel (Dem-N.Y.).

Drinan said he introduced the first impeachment resolution to get the proceeding started. "The assumption was that the President would have a hearing and that perhaps he can exculpate himself," said Drinan, former dean of Boston College Law School. "I hope he can dispel the charge."

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