

NYTimes JAN 29 1974  
**REPUBLICANS SET  
HOUSE GUIDELINES  
ON IMPEACHMENT**

**Judiciary Bloc Says Nixon  
Must Be Linked Directly to  
Any Aide's Criminal Acts**

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28—

Republican members of the House Judiciary Committee have reached informal agreement that President Nixon could not be impeached for criminal acts of subordinates without evidence of his personal knowledge or direction.

The consensus was reported by Representatives Edward Hutchinson of Michigan, the ranking Republican on the committee, after a morning caucus with Albert E. Jenner, minority counsel to the impeachment inquiry staff.

Meanwhile, Speaker Carl Albert told newsmen that he believed the full House would vote on whatever recommendation its Judiciary Committee delivered—to impeach or not to impeach. "I have been led to believe by pretty strong talk in the House that one of these impeachment resolutions will be called up," Mr. Albert said.

In reaching their conclusion, the Republican members of the committee appeared to be moving toward the exclusion from consideration in the inquiry of any information that does not show a direct connection between the President and those under him. Such a position could, for example, preclude holding the President responsible for negligence or a pattern of conduct on the part of subordinates.

**For Common Approach**

Although some Democrats on the committee favor holding the President accountable for closer supervision of those under him, as a group they have reached no similar informal agreement on the question of accountability.

The meeting, the first held between Republican committee members and their counsel, was designed to develop a common approach to the conduct of the inquiry. In addition to agreement on the President's responsibility for subordinates, members reported the following informal agreements:

¶There is a need for a public hearing of an educational nature on the subject of impeachment one that relies on the committee's staff and not "outside experts."

¶Subpoena powers that will be asked for the committee must be "fully bipartisan," and the ranking minority member should have powers equal to that of the Democrats.

The Judiciary Committee, which is considering all impeachment resolutions intro-

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**Republicans Set Guides in House  
For the President's Impeachment**

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duced in the House, is made up exclusively of lawyers. The present make-up is 21 Democrats and 16 Republicans, with one Republican vacancy to be filled.

The position taken by the Republicans on the President's responsibility leaves unclear just how this approach will deal with specific charges made against Mr. Nixon in the Watergate and related scandals. According to one participant in the meeting, specific cases were discussed with Mr. Jenner in an effort to clarify the matter.

"Mr. Jenner used for an example the President's authorization of a plumbers operation," this member said, "which included wiretaps and break-ins. That could very easily constitute an offense because of his knowledge and actions. If President Nixon specifically authorized wiretaps or burglary to get information—that could constitute knowledge of the offenses."

None of the committee members reached after the meeting was willing to discuss that or any other specific case raised in their meeting, but another Republican raised the matter on the floor of the house.

Representative Paul N. McCloskey of California called on his colleagues to consider an amnesty act that would allow President Nixon to resign without facing the threat of criminal prosecution.

Referring to the guilty plea of a former White House aide, Egil Krogh Jr., in connection with the plumbers operation, Mr. McCloskey said:

"The President of the United States has publicly admitted that when he learned of Mr. Krogh's offense, he deliberately acted both to conceal that crime and to hinder the prosecution of those who committed it. These actions by the President constitute high crimes in their own right."

Mr. McCloskey said later that

he had suggested the amnesty bill because "quietly, everybody wishes the problem would go away, but the trouble is if the guy resigned tomorrow he would be indictable the next day. It's just an idea thrown into the debate at this stage."

In response to questions later, Mr. McCloskey said he had had no contact with the White House on his amnesty proposal but that after he had delivered his seven-minute speech, Vice President Ford's office requested a copy of his remarks.

In seeking a consensus on Presidential accountability, the Republicans were attempting to answer one of the thorniest questions facing the impeachment inquiry: What is an impeachable offense? The bulk of the research done to date by the inquiry staff has been devoted to making recommendations to the committee and the House on that question.

John M. Doar, special counsel in charge of the staff, and Mr. Jenner are scheduled to brief the committee members tomorrow and again on Thursday on their progress to date.

The answer eventually adopted by the House will, in a large measure, define the character of the impeachment debate. A finding that the President is accountable for the acts of those under him would allow consideration of much of the evidence already made public by the Senate Watergate committee.

These and other questions will figure importantly in the staff research now under way in preparation for a report which may be at a public hearing, on Feb. 20 on legal and historical research on the impeachment questions.

The Judiciary Committee chairman, Peter W. Rodino Jr., New Jersey Democrat, has suggested that the hearing could be in public and has won support for the idea from Republicans.

However, Representative Robert McClory, Illinois Republican, said the minority members would oppose a hearing that involved "outside experts."