

# Impeachment Unit to Assert Rights

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The House Judiciary Committee is expected to approve today and send to the House a resolution asserting its constitutional power to obtain information from any source, including the President, for its impeachment inquiry of President Nixon.

The resolution would not be a law, but rather a statement

by the House that it has "unqualified" power to obtain such information under provisions of the Constitution vesting power of impeachment solely in the House, and to delegate this power to its committee.

It would be a declaration to the White House, to Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski and to the courts that the House believes it has

power without seeking court orders to obtain whatever information it needs from any source.

It would be in line with a statement made Tuesday by Rep. Edward Hutchinson (R-Mich.), senior Republican on the Judiciary Committee, that the President cannot assert executive privilege to withhold information from the committee's impeachment inquiry.

If approved by the committee and the House, the resolution would empower the committee by subpoena or otherwise to obtain testimony in person or by sworn statement from "any person" it deems necessary. It also would empower the committee to obtain needed documents in the custody of any person, specifically including "the President or any other officer, employee, or agency of the government of the United States."

Committee members said there are no plans to call Mr. Nixon to testify in person.

The resolution is intended to equip the committee with power to obtain documents from the White House, which has been equivocal as to whether it would cooperate, and from Jaworski, who has indicated that secrecy requirements of Watergate grand jury proceedings prevent him from handing over his files voluntarily.

The committee already has subpoena power for matters within its specific jurisdiction. But the impeachment power is vested in the House as a whole, and the committee felt it needed formal action by the House delegating subpoena power for the impeachment inquiry to the committee.

The resolution also would give formal authority by the full House to the committee's inquiry into whether Mr. Nixon should be impeached (indicted) and removed from office for Watergate or other actions.