

# Rodino May Call Nixon To Testify

Washington

The House Judiciary Committee could find it necessary to seek President Nixon's testimony in person as its inquiry into possible impeachment develops, committee chairman Peter W. Rodino Jr. (Dem-N.J.) said yesterday.

Rodino said at a news conference he cannot now say whether the committee will call Mr. Nixon.

"If it becomes necessary, I believe the committee would feel the President's presence is required," he said.

The news conference followed a closed session at which the committee approved completion of a staff of 90 to work on the inquiry.

Rodino emphasized that the staff is nonpartisan and that no one was employed who has taken a stand, so far as could be determined, on the impeachment.

Rodino said the committee has declared itself satisfied with the staff.

The senior Republican member of the committee, Representative Edward Hutchinson of Michigan, backed Rodino's assessment. He said "they are operating as a unified staff," and noted that 12 of the 39 attorneys on the staff had been named at the suggestion of the Republican minority of the committee.

The House is expected to vote sweeping subpoena powers to the committee today. However, Rodino, Hutchinson and the chief counsel, John M. Doar, agreed that the committee will first try to obtain voluntarily the information it seeks from the White House, the office of special Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski and others.

*Associated Press*