

Judiciary Staff Held Politically Unbiased

By Richard L. Lyons
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For its impeachment inquiry of President Nixon, the House Judiciary Committee has assembled a staff of 39 lawyers whom the committee described yesterday as uncommitted publicly on impeachment.

The committee went to great lengths to portray the special staff as broadly representative of the country, and thus to avoid criticism that some defenders of the President have leveled at the staff of the Watergate special prosecutor's office as being a nest of Eastern liberal Democrats.

During six weeks of recruitment, the committee refused to release names until a "balanced" staff had been fully assembled. The list was released at a news conference yesterday by Chairman Peter W. Rodino (D-N.J.) and Rep. Edward Hutchinson (R-Mich.), who called them "professional . . . highly qualified . . . a unified staff."

The lawyers who will collect and sort out data on charges that Mr. Nixon should be impeached and removed from office for Watergate or other acts are the product of 19 law schools and came to the staff from practice in about as many different communities.

Harvard, Yale and Columbia law schools produced 16 of them, but others learned their law at Georgia, Vanderbilt, Virginia, Villanova, Colorado and American University. Eight joined the staff from practice in New York City. Others came from Montgomery, Ala.; Atlanta, Denver, Baltimore, East Orange, N.J., and New Richmond, Wis.

The legal staff includes four blacks, two women, former law clerks to Supreme Court justices, a worker in legal services for the poor and half a dozen from the Justice Department. Twelve were selected by Hutchinson to carry out Rodino's pledge that the

minority could select one-third of the staff.

Their ages range from 25 to 66, with the average just over 32. Their salaries range from \$14,000 to \$36,000 on an annual basis. The total staff, including four investigators, 10 researchers, 21 secretaries and a security director, totals 90 and is larger than either the staff of Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski (38 lawyers and a total staff of 80) or that of the Senate Watergate committee (17 and 64). Thirteen lawyers are working at the White House on the President's defense.

Names of four of the six top staff members had previously been made public. They are special counsel John Doar, senior associate special counsel Richard Cates of Madison, Wis., and the two senior Republican lawyers, Albert Jenner of Chicago and Samuel Garrison, former commonwealth's attorney of Roanoke, Va.

Added to this group yesterday as senior associate special counsels were Joseph A. Woods, 48, graduate of the University of California and a practicing attorney in Oakland, Calif., for 23 years, and Bernard W. Nussbaum, 36, Harvard law graduate, former assistant U.S. attorney in Manhattan and for the past eight years partner in a New York law firm.

Rodino said that Woods is in charge of a group researching legal and constitutional questions such as the definition of impeachable offenses.

Cates and Nussbaum are in charge of six task forces collecting and sifting all available information that bear on the President's guilt or innocence of acts that fall into the following categories of allegations:

- Domestic surveillance conducted by or at the direction of the White House—such as the leak-plugging "plumbers" who burglarized the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.
- Intelligence activities connected with the President's

1972 re-election campaign, including false cables and the "dirty tricks" operation.

- The Watergate break-in of Democratic national headquarters and its attempted cover-up.

- Personal finances of the President, including tax deductions for donation of his vice presidential papers and his real estate transactions.

- Attempted use of federal agencies to harass "enemies" and alleged illegal campaign contributions from dairy and other interests.

- Other charges of misconduct such as refusing to spend appropriated funds and the secret bombing of Cambodia in 1970.

Today the House is expected to approve a resolution giving its formal backing to the inquiry and arming the committee with subpoena power to obtain needed information. Republicans will try to include an April 30 cut-off date for the investigation, but are not united and are expected to lose.

Rodino said the committee will conduct its work as openly as possible, but would have to hear witnesses in closed session when publicity would prejudice impending court trials or an individual's constitutional rights. He said all meetings where the committee takes action will be open.

The committee will request voluntary submission of information from the White House and other sources before ordering it by subpoena, Rodino said. Hutchinson said the use of subpoena should be "a last resort."

Committee lawyers have said the requested subpoena power is broad enough to compel Mr. Nixon to appear in person to testify. Rodino reiterated yesterday that while there are no plans to call the President, he believed the committee would do so "if it were necessary to make a fair judgement."