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**DEMOCRATS SEEK
QUICK NIXON TEST
ON IMPEACHMENT**

**Members of Judiciary Panel
Will Seek Watergate Data
to Gauge His Cooperation**

By **JAMES M. NAUGHTON**
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20 — Democratic members of the House Judiciary Committee decided today to seek specific items of Watergate evidence from the White House to test President Nixon's willingness to cooperate with the House impeachment inquiry.

At a closed party caucus, the committee's Democratic majority reportedly discussed the likelihood of an eventual confrontation with the White House over impeachment and moved to bring this about quickly.

The Democrats also agreed informally to adopt the position that the White House had no authority to recommend or pass judgment on procedures the committee will follow in conducting the investigation.

Formal Request Urged

The decisions reflected an apparent stiffening of resolve among the Democrats to demonstrate, as Representative Robert F. Drinan of Massachusetts later stated it, that "we're not going to be pushed around" by the White House.

John M. Doar, the committee's special counsel on impeachment, began general discussions last week with James D. St. Clair, the President's special Watergate counsel, on access by the panel to White House tape recordings and documents.

Father Drinan, a Roman Catholic priest, and other Democrats who participated in the caucus today said that they had pressed Mr. Doar to make, instead, a formal request for specific items of evidence and thus resolve uncertainty about Mr. Nixon's willingness to cooperate. Mr. Doar reportedly told the Democrats that he hoped to submit a request to Mr. St. Clair in writing by the

Continued on Page 23, Column 1

1974
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Continued From Page 1, Col. 5

end of this week. Implicit in such a request would be the warning that failure, by the White House to comply voluntarily with it would lead to the issuance of a committee subpoena.

The committee chairman, Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr., Democrat of New Jersey, declined to tell newsmen how many days he believed the White House should be given to comply with the request.

But Mr. Rodino said pointedly that the committee wanted "to move along" with the inquiry to meet White House and Republican party demands for a prompt conclusion of the investigation.

Representative John F. Seiberling, Democrat of Ohio, said that the White House had been involved in studying Watergate evidence for a year and therefore ought to be able to respond to the request "as fast as they can produce the material."

At least one of the Democrats, whose colleagues would not identify him, was said to have urged Mr. Doar to give the White House until next Thursday to supply the evidence voluntarily. But Father Drinan and others said they believed it would be "premature" to set any deadline.

Procedural Issues

The Democrats' determination to accelerate the inquiry was also illustrated by their reported consensus on two procedural issues that had been debated within the committee for several weeks—how to define impeachable misconduct by a President and how to as-

sure continued confidentiality of any evidence sought by the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Rodino, who had announced plans for a public hearing tomorrow on the definition of impeachable misconduct, said today that a 50-page brief being prepared by Mr. Doar and the minority counsel, Albert E. Jenner Jr., should "speak for itself." The brief will be issued tomorrow by the committee, but without a formal meeting.

Mr. Doar and Mr. Jenner are both reportedly prepared to contend that the Constitution provides for a broad view of impeachment and that a President may be held to account for actions that are contrary to the public interest but not necessarily indictable criminal offenses.

The Justice Department has prepared its own study, called "The Law of Impeachment," which is expected to advance the more narrow view that a President may be impeached only for a serious violation of criminal law.

Mr. Rodino told newsmen today that individual members of the committee would have to reach their own conclusions about what constitutes impeachable misconduct. Asked if the committee should seek the Justice Department's legal memorandum, Mr. Rodino bristled and said:

"The committee on the judiciary is acting independently. It has its own responsibility under the Constitution. This isn't the Justice Department. It's the House of Representatives."

Mr. Rodino also said that the committee's rules on handling of confidential evidence would be set by House custom and not to satisfy White House insistence on assurance that the material would not be leaked to the press.

Under the plan approved by

the Democrats today, and expected to be discussed by the full committee Friday, access to the evidence would be limited initially to Mr. Rodino, the panel's ranking Republican, Edward Hutchinson of Michigan; and Mr. Doar and Mr. Jenner. They would prepare an index of the relevant evidence, and other members of the committee would be permitted to examine it under conditions that would bar making copies or taking notes.

Father Drinan said that some Democrats had asked whether the secrecy rules were being set to "kow tow" to Jim St. Clair, but that Mr. Rodino had said they were the normal procedure followed by house committees when dealing with classified documents.

Describing the tone of the Democratic caucus, Father Drinan said there had been widespread anticipation that Mr. St. Clair would use "dilatatory tactics" in representing the President and that a confrontation with the White House was "inevitable." He said it was incumbent on the committee to "demonstrate we're not going to be delayed. We're not going to be pushed around."

**Police Week in Toronto
Will Be Based on 'Need'**

TORONTO (Canadian Press) — "We need our cops" is to be the motto for this year's police week in Canada, authorities have announced.

The annual get-to-know-your-policemen event is scheduled to be held in May.

The program, yet to be drawn up, will be more diverse than last year's "Cops are Tops" theme.

The police week is aimed at familiarizing the public with the methods and purpose of the police and their work.