

Rep. Hogan Says St. Clair Is 'Off Base'

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Rep. Lawrence J. Hogan (R-Md.), one of the most partisan Republicans on the House Judiciary Committee, warned yesterday that President Nixon will lose his friends on the committee if he doesn't show more cooperation in its impeachment inquiry.

Hogan denounced a series of statements by the President's lawyer, James D. St. Clair, press secretary Ronald Ziegler and counselor Bryce Harlow telling the committee to define impeachable offenses, submit a list of charges against the President and to limit the inquiry to Watergate matters.

"It is not the White House's job to tell the committee how to discharge its constitutional function," said Hogan in a statement. "The President's lawyer is off base when he stated the committee should first define an impeachable offense. There is no set definition. Each member will have to subjectively determine this in his own mind."

There is a broader scope than Watergate, "such as the President's tax returns," which the committee should investigate, added Hogan. "The President is getting bum advice from those who tell him otherwise."

"If the President continues to follow the lines being drawn by his counsel and press secretary, he will lose even those on the committee who are trying to keep an open mind on the impeachment issue," warned Hogan. "And if the President ignores a subpoena from the committee, this could be considered an impeachable offense."

The White House is resisting or at least delaying giving the committee 42 taped presidential conversations concerning the cover-up of the Watergate break-in which the committee staff and its senior members consider essential to the inquiry.

Rep. John Zwach (R-Minn.), a conservative not on the committee, wrote in response to a constituent's question: "A fundamental requirement is that the President make available all material relevant to the entire Watergate matter. This is a must."

Rep. George Danielson (D-Calif.), a committee member, said the White House had "put the cart before the horse" in asking that the committee draw up charges before its investigation is completed.