

Judiciary Unit Asks New Funds

By Richard L. Lyons
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The House Judiciary Committee is asking for an additional \$500,000 on top of its original \$1 million budget to complete its impeachment inquiry of President Nixon.

Chairman Wayne Hays (D-Ohio) of the House Administration Committee said the request had been informally transmitted to him by Judiciary Committee Chairman Peter W. Rodino (D-N.J.). The original budget was approved before Rodino had any real idea of the scope of his assignment, which now appears certain to run at least until mid-June instead of April 30 as Rodino had hoped. The investigation is being made by a fulltime staff of 100, including more than 40 lawyers.

An informal briefing session of the Judiciary Committee by its staff today is expected to develop into a partisan wrangle over adopting procedures for committee consideration of the impeachment case. The committee is expected to begin daily sessions soon after May 1 to receive evidence assembled by the staff.

Republicans want a business meeting called not later than next week to vote on questions such as participation by Mr. Nixon's lawyer, eliminating allegations against the President that seem to have no substance and to decide on calling witnesses to testify.

Rodino said he is opposed to calling a meeting until after the Easter recess, which ends April 22. The only exception, he indicated, would be a flat White House rejection of the committee's request for materials. In that case, the committee might meet to issue a subpoena for the tapes of presidential conversations, he indicated.

Rodino said he saw no reason to eliminate any possible impeachment charges until the committee takes up the whole case. Republicans say there is no point spending a lot of time on an item—such as attempted dismantling of the Office of Economic Opportunity—if it is then to be dropped.

Republicans and some Democrats support the request of Mr. Nixon's lawyer, James D. St. Clair, that he be permitted to cross-examine witnesses. Rodino has been adamant against converting the inquiry

into a trial, but has virtually agreed that St. Clair should be permitted to take some part when the committee considers the charges.

Some Republicans say they get the impression that the staff plans to present the case largely from tapes and documents, rather than through live testimony. Reps. Charles Wiggins (R-Calif.) and David Dennis (R-Ind.), among others, feel strongly that witnesses with "critical testimony" should appear to be cross-examined.