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**SCOPE OF INQUIRY
ON IMPEACHMENT
MAY BE NARROWED**

**Staff Lawyers Ask Action
Only on the Most Serious
Charges Against Nixon**

PANEL APPROVAL LIKELY

**Plan Calls for Focus on Tax
Returns of President and
Cover-Up of Watergate**

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

WASHINGTON, April 24—Lawyers for the House Judiciary Committee will propose tomorrow that the scope of the impeachment inquiry be narrowed sharply to include only the most serious potential charges of wrongdoing by President Nixon.

If adopted by the committee, as expected, the plan would focus the final stage of the inquiry on such central issues as the President's possible role in the Watergate cover-up attempt, the preparation of his income tax returns and the activities of the secret White House intelligence unit.

"We're really getting down to the nitty-gritty now," said Representative Tom Railsback of Illinois after he and the other Republicans on the committee had been briefed privately on the recommendation by Albert E. Jenner Jr., the chief minority counsel.

Evidence Found Lacking

Representative Edward Hutchinson of Michigan, the senior Republican on the panel, said that the plan would mean eliminating from further consideration most of the 56 allegations contained in a March 1 outline of the inquiry staff's investigation.

Meanwhile, the Watergate special prosecutor's inquiry on illegal campaign donations has broadened into an investigation of possible favors granted to big donors by Federal officials and agencies in response to White House pressure, according to sources close to the investigation. [Details on Page 33.]

Participants in the closed two

hour Republican caucus disclosed that the committee's lawyers had agreed to propose that some allegations be dropped because there was no evidence to implicate the President directly and to suggest eliminating other issues because they were unlikely to be considered impeachable offenses in a vote of the full House of Representatives.

Mr. Jenner reportedly read

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to the Republicans from a draft that he had prepared with the Senior Democratic appointee on the inquiry staff, John M. Doar, the special counsel. Their bipartisan con-ly to be approved when the committee's 21 Democrats and 17 Republicans vote on the proposal tomorrow.

Members who had taken part in the briefing said that not all the details of the plan had been outlined, but that the lawyers were prepared to recommend the following actions:

¶ Charges regarding the President's refusal to spend funds appropriated by Congress would be dropped because, as one Republican put it, there was "ample evidence" that Congress had tolerated the practice by Mr. Nixon and his predecessors.

¶ Charges of illegal corporate and union contributions to the President's re-election campaign would be abandoned for lack of documentation of any personal involvement of Mr. Nixon.

¶ Most of the 26 separate allegations of misuse of Government agencies to exact political funds from corporations and individuals would be eliminated. Many were said to be too nebulous to trade or too intricate to investigate in a reasonable period of time.

¶ The committee would drop its investigation of the President's attempt to dismantle the Office of Economic Opportunity, which Republicans on the committee had opposed as a purely political issue and not a matter for impeachment.

Participants in the briefing said that the lawyers would pursue, at least for now, charges that Mr. Nixon had acted improperly in authorizing the secret bombing of Cambodia. But committee members said that whether this issue would be part of an impeachment recommendation would probably depend on a report being prepared on the bombing by Senator Harold E. Hughes, Democrat of Iowa.

The Republicans also reported that the staff would continue investigating allegations that the Nixon Administration against the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation and had increased

Federal milk price supports in exchange for 1972 campaign contributions from I.T.T. and dairy producers.

The committee's lawyers asked the White House last week for a number of additional tape recordings and documents dealing with the I.T.T. and milk cases and the Watergate cover-up. Mr. Jenner was quoted as saying that the tapes involved in the latest request totaled 46.1 hours of recorded conversation.

Delay Is Supported

The Republicans reportedly agreed to support the White House request for a five-day extension, from tomorrow to next Tuesday, in the due date for replying to the committee's earlier subpoena of tapes of some 42 conversations believed to involve Watergate.

Although several of the Republicans voiced delight at the staff's decision to abandon many of the initial areas of the investigation, they appeared determined to pursue the remaining matters.

The committee's Republicans instructed Mr. Jenner to seek a commitment by tomorrow from the President's lawyers for some method that would permit the panel to verify that relevant evidence had not been eliminated from any recordings or transcripts turned over to the committee by the White House.