

# Procedural Rules in Impeach

Washington

A House Judiciary subcommittee approved rules yesterday permitting President Nixon's lawyer to participate in committee consideration of the impeachment case, but under conditions preventing obstruction.

The procedural rules will be presented for approval by the full committee today. They were designed to permit full participation by presidential counsel James D. St. Clair to prevent a threatened partisan split.

As proposed earlier by special counsel John Doar, the rules provide that when the committee sits down to hear the case assembled by Doar's staff, each of the 38 members will be given a statement of facts. This will consist of a series of paragraphs, each stating a fact, with footnotes citing tapes, documents or other backup data to support these facts. The staff will then make a detailed presentation of evidence on the allegations.

When these hearings begin, every committee member will be allowed for the first time to read and listen to secret data previously received from the White House and other federal agencies and from the Watergate grand jury.

St. Clair would be invited to attend the staff presentation of evidence and then would be invited to respond orally or in writing "as shall be determined by the committee." If St. Clair wished to call witnesses, he would be required to state "precisely" in writing the reason and the expected testimony.

If the committee calls other witnesses, St. Clair and the President would be invited to attend all hearings where they appear, whether open or closed. St. Clair would be entitled to question any witness, but "subject to instructions from the chair-

man . . . respecting the time, scope and duration of the examination."

Each hearing at which evidence is to be presented would be open to the news media and the public unless a majority of the committee

votes to close it to receive evidence which it might consider "defamatory, demeaning or incriminating."

The rules would also permit St. Clair, among others, to make objections relating to the testimony and ques-

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tioning of witnesses.

Representative George Danielson (Dem-Calif.) tried to knock out this provision, saying that St. Clair could be "obstructive with frivolous objections."

But other Democrats vot-

ed to keep the provision, because, as Representative Edward Mezvinsky (Dem-Iowa) said: "We are leaning over backward to keep peace in the family" of the committee.

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