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Rodino Explains a Request
For File in Kopechne Case

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WASHINGTON, May 14 —
The House impeachment inquiry requested and received legal papers filed in the inquest into the death of Mary Jo Kopechne in its staff's search for precedents on the role of counsel in nonjudicial proceedings, Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr. said today.

Mr. Rodino, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, issued a statement following news reports that the committee was investigating the death of Miss Kopechne, who was killed in 1969 in a car driven by Senator Edward M. Kennedy Democrat of Massachusetts.

Mr. Rodino, a New Jersey Democrat, said that the committee was not looking into the accident. Shortly after the published legal papers were ordered, he said, the committee's staff concluded that inquest precedents were not of use in drafting procedures for the impeachment proceedings, and no use was made of the papers.