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Nixon Priest Rips Impeach Hearings

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The Rev. John McLaughlin, a Jesuit priest and presidential adviser, said yesterday that the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment hearings have "produced little but noise and a few selected leaks."

Father McLaughlin, a special deputy assistant to President Nixon, said the committee has been manipulated by its staff, which he said has a "definite anti-Nixon bias."

"It is not unfair to characterize the legal staff of the House Judiciary Committee as having a 'young Turk' attitude," Father McLaughlin said.

He said that committee procedures strike many Americans as amateurish if not unfair and said many would like to see the hearings televised to "see if Emperor Peter Rodini (the committee chairman) is wearing any clothes."

Father McLaughlin said at a news conference that many committee members have already convicted Mr. Nixon.

Associated Press