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# Rodino Panel Hopes for Vote By Mid-July

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House Judiciary Committee Chairman Peter W. Rodino (D-N.J.) hopes for a committee vote by mid-July on whether President Nixon should be impeached and to get the issue to the House floor by the first of August.

Whether he can meet his schedule depends in good part on a committee decision two weeks hence on how

many witnesses to call. The committee has spent the last three weeks and plans to spend two more behind closed doors examining evidence assembled by its staff on the President's involvement, or lack of it, in Watergate and other matters. At the conclusion of that presentation it is to decide whether it needs to call witnesses.

Rodino wants to limit witnesses to those necessary to fill vital gaps in the evidence and to resolve contradictions. He takes the view that the committee is not conducting a trial but an inquiry to determine whether there is cause to send the issue to the Senate for trial.

Further, the chairman sees no point in calling a long string of witnesses who have told their stories under oath before the Senate Watergate committee or elsewhere, because they wouldn't be likely to change their testimony and thus be subject to perjury charges.

Many committee Republicans, on the other hand, want to call several witnesses in that category whose testimony could consume anywhere from one to several weeks.

The President's supporters especially want to call John W. Dean III, the President's chief accuser, whose conversation with Mr. Nixon on March 21, 1973, about hush money and the Watergate cover-up appears the most likely grounds so far for an impeachment charge.

Some members undoubtedly hope that the President's lawyer, James D. St. Clair, could tear Dean apart and discredit his testimony. But they also take the view that the committee must go beyond finding probable cause, like a grand jury, and determine beyond a reasonable doubt, like a trial jury, that the President has

committed impeachable offenses.

This is not necessarily a

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facetious argument. Impeachment by the House is generally likened to indictment by a grand jury. The issue would then go to the Senate for trial.

But House members would have to prosecute the case in the Senate and would need more than probable cause to prove their case.

Rodino could prevail if the issue of witnesses comes to a committee showdown, but he has attempted all along to avoid partisan splits, and there are gaps enough to be filled to justify calling some witnesses.

The committee has asked for, and been refused, 98 tapes of White House conversations on the Watergate cover-up, 46 tapes on dairy political contributions and 20 tapes on settlement of the antitrust suite against International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. The President has been ordered to respond to a subpoena for 45 of those Watergate tapes by Monday morning, but has said he would turn over no more Watergate material. He has given the panel 19 Watergate tapes and edited transcripts of 45 others.

The most likely witness appears to be Charles W. Colson, former counsel to the President who pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice in the break-in of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office and expressed a willingness to cooperate with prosecutors. The Judiciary Committee staff will interview Colson this week to learn what he could tell the committee.

Colson seems to be in the middle of most of the allegations the committee is studying. He was identified in the tapes and transcripts the committee has as pressing for action on an intelligence-gathering plan that resulted in the Watergate break-in, and as having discussed with the President executive clemency for E. Howard Hunt, Jr., who pleaded guilty in the break-in.

Colson also was the White House contact with the dairy industry and perhaps could help answer the question: Did the President order an increase in dairy price supports in exchange for a large campaign contribution?

The committee must also make more decisions on St. Clair's precise role. After the committee hears the staff's evidence, he is entitled to make a response in a manner still to be determined. He is also entitled to ask that witnesses be called, but under tight committee control.

## Six-Day Senate Week Seen If Nixon Is Tried

United Press International  
Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield said yesterday that if the House votes to impeach President Nixon, he will put the Senate on a six-day work week to insure completion of the trial before the end of the year.

"As far as I'm concerned, I want to see it completed this year, one way or the other," Mansfield told reporters.

He said he would recommend the Senate work on a six-day basis to achieve that goal, although he stressed it was still uncertain whether the House would vote to impeach.