

What Witnesses May Tell House Inquiry

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Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr., chairman of the House Judiciary committee, has said that he will set narrow bounds for the interrogation of the witnesses before the inquiry into possible impeachment of President Nixon.

Mr. Rodino, a New Jersey Democrat, plans to limit the questions to those that could fill specific gaps in the evidence the committee has already compiled.

Although the chairman has not yet disclosed these bounds, it is clear from evidence that is already public what are some of the key questions.

Following are the potential witnesses and a description of the holes in the evidence that they might plug.

Alexander P. Butterfield, now head of the Federal Aviation Administration, who was secretary and H. R. Haldeman's principal assistant in Mr. Nixon's first term in office. He has not been implicated in any wrongdoing but is expected to testify as to the chain of command in the White House. He could provide evidence on how extensively Mr. Haldeman and other operated independently and how much they relied on the President for instructions.

Nixon's Tax Returns

Herbert W. Kalmbach, who was Mr. Nixon's personal attorney. Although he participated in raising money for the Watergate defendants, the questions posed by the Judiciary Committee are expected to deal with Mr. Nixon's tax payments. The key question is how much attention Mr. Nixon himself gave to his own tax returns.

Henry E. Petersen, who is assistant Attorney General in charge of the Justice Department's Criminal Division and was in over-all charge of the Watergate case before a special prosecutor was appointed. Mr. Petersen is expected to be asked whether the President aided or hindered his investigation. Edited transcripts of the President's conversations show that Mr. Nixon pledged that he would keep in confidence what Mr. Petersen told him and that, instead, the president filled in

his top aides on what the prosecution was learning.

John W. Dean 3d, who was the White House counsel and, since April 1973, has been the President's chief accuser. He is likely to be asked to clarify when he first told Mr. Nixon about the scope of the Watergate cover-up and what he knows of an alleged hush money payment on March 21, 1973. He may also be questioned about White House efforts to use the Internal Revenue Service to harass political enemies.

Frederick C. Larue, who was a campaign official. He has acknowledged serving as a middleman in the payment of \$75,000 on March 21, 1973 to E. Howard Hunt Jr., a convicted Watergate conspirator. He is expected to testify as to the date and manner in which the payment was made.

Role in Hugh Money

Charles W. Colson, who was special counsel to the President. He is said to have some knowledge about a variety of allegations under investigation. Specifically, he is expected to be asked about the alleged hush-money payment, campaign contributions from milk producers and the relations between the

White House and the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation.

John N. Mitchell, who was Attorney General and later Mr. Nixon's campaign director. He is alleged to have instructed Mr. Larue to make the payoff to Mr. Hunt. The question is whether Mr. Mitchell's orders came directly or indirectly from Mr. Nixon.

H. R. Haldeman, who was the President's chief of staff and closest adviser. He is expected to be asked about the extent to which his actions resulted from Presidential directives.

William O. Bittman, who was Mr. Hunt's attorney and acted as a go-between in the alleged hush money payment. He is expected to be asked whether the payment was made to buy Mr. Hunt's silence on whether it was legitimately given to aid Mr. Hunt's legal defense.

Paul L. O'Brien, who was a lawyer for Mr. Nixon's re-election committee. Supposedly, Mr. Bittman went first to Mr. O'Brien in search of money for Mr. Hunt. The question is whether Mr. O'Brien was told that unless the money was paid Mr. Hunt would testify against White House officials.