

Impeach Unit 'Unfair,' Says Dean Burch

Washington

Dean Burch, a counselor to President Nixon, said yesterday it was "patently unfair" of the House Judiciary Committee to allow only two of the six witnesses requested by James St. Clair, Mr. Nixon's attorney.

Burch, at a news conference called by Ken Clawson, the President's communications director, opened by stating that he wanted to say "a little something about the events of last evening at the House Judiciary Committee."

This was a reference to the lengthy hassle that culminated in the committee's decision to call five persons as witnesses, including only two of the six St. Clair had requested.

He said this incident raised a question as to "just how fair, how decent, how thorough" the committee's proceedings were. Mr. Nixon is being deprived of the basic Sixth Amendment rights he would have if he had "stolen a loaf of bread," he added.

The Sixth Amendment to the Constitution guarantees an accused person's basic trial rights. Burch said: "But apparently this doesn't hold if you are accused of high crimes and misdemeanors," a reference to the constitutional grounds for impeachment of a president.

He said he believes St. Clair's request to be "a rather modest one," in asking for "six, not 60 not 600, but six" witnesses.

St. Clair had suggested that John W. Dean III, John Mitchell, H. R. Haldeman, Frederick Larue, William Bittman and Paul O'Brien be called. Of these six, only Dean and Larue were among the five persons the committee voted to call.

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