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Statements by Rodino and Clawson

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WASHINGTON, June 28—  
Following is a transcript of remarks on the House floor today by Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr., chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, and a statement issued by Ken W. Clawson, White House director of communications, regarding a published report that Mr. Rodino had said that all 21 Democrats on the committee were prepared to vote to recommend impeachment of President Nixon:

#### Rodino's Remarks

Mr. Speaker, the press report to which I refer reads that the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee has stated that all the Democratic members of the committee will support the impeachment of President Nixon.

I want to state unequivocally that this statement is not true. There is no basis in fact for it, none whatsoever.

The chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary has, ever since the inception of this inquiry, consistently been solicitous of the need to be careful, deliberate and altogether fair. I have stated this position, not just rhetorically, but because I feel it deep within me.

And I have so expressed

myself to each and every member of the committee. I am sure that no member of the committee can say other than just that. Nor have I ever inquired of any member of the committee as to how he or she will vote. I do not know how anyone will vote, nor could I presume to know.

During the course of this inquiry, I have at every press briefing, at every opportunity to express myself by public statement and otherwise, stated the need to proceed only on the basis of fairness, and only when there has been a complete presentation, only then, should members draw a conclusion. This is the way it must be because the American public and history will judge us.

#### 'Unfortunate Report'

For this report, this unfortunate, regrettable press report, to reflect on the committee and the committee's proceedings it, in my judgment, tremendously unfortunate and regrettable.

The gentleman from Alabama, who just left here, Mr. Walter Flowers, permitted me to use his name. He had a discussion with me this morning, before I learned of this report, and again just prior to my coming to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, we discussed on a very heart-to-heart basis

the questions involved and how deeply rooted they are in conscience and conviction as we continue our search for the truth. And the gentleman from Alabama, Mr. Walter Flowers, who just had to catch a plane, stated that he would be denying this report, and any statement such as this, attributed to me. He said he could deny it from here to Alabama and back.

I know that any member of this House who knows me can state without equivocation that in any discussion he or she has had with me, that this has been the attitude of the committee chairman. Were it otherwise, I want to assure the House that I would not be sitting as chairman of the committee; I would withdraw myself from that capacity.

#### Clawson's Statement

Chairman Rodino's partnership and the bias of other Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee was confirmed today out of Mr. Rodino's own mouth. Mr. Rodino's abuse of the impeachment process clearly requires that he be discharged as chairman and replaced by a fair-minded Democrat. Although Mr. Rodino's comments constitute foot and mouth disease, it nevertheless obviously reflects his personal views.