

Rules Committee Seeks to Allow Live Telecasts of Rodino Panel

By RICHARD L. MADDEN

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WASHINGTON, July 18—The House Rules Committee took the first step today toward opening the final sessions of the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment inquiry to live television and radio coverage.

By a vote of 10 to 3, the committee approved a change in the House rules permitting the live coverage. But the resolution still requires approval by a majority of the full House in a vote scheduled for Monday, and a majority of the Judiciary Committee would have to vote to permit the live coverage before the panel begins its final debate on possible articles of impeachment starting next Wednesday.

In the past the Judiciary Committee has voted to close to the public its sessions to hear evidence on the possible impeachment of President Nixon.

But the Rules Committee action of today had the support of the Judiciary Committee's chairman, Peter W. Rodino Jr., Democrat of New Jersey, and its second-ranking Republican, Robert McClory of Illinois.

Today's action also apparently represented a switch by the Speaker of the House, Carl Albert, Democrat of Oklahoma,

who reportedly had previously discouraged Mr. Rodino from seeking the rules change but who said earlier this week that he would support live coverage if the committee wanted it.

The closed sessions of the committee up to now have drawn strong criticism from House Republicans and the White House.

Under the interpretation of existing House rules, hearings but not "meetings" of a committee can be televised live if a majority of the committee approve. Thus, the votes of the committee expected by the end of next week on possible articles of impeachment could not have been televised.

The proposed rules change would permit live coverage of both hearings and meetings if a committee majority approved, and it would apply to all House committees.

Senior Republicans Opposed

Voting against the proposed rules change were the three senior Republicans on the Rules Committee, Representatives David T. Martin of Nebraska, John B. Anderson of Illinois and James H. Quillen of Tennessee.

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