

Charges Against Nixon -- A 'Policy to Cover Up'

Washington

Proposed impeachment articles circulated yesterday in a House Judiciary committee meeting accuse President Nixon of "having made it his policy to cover up and conceal responsibility" for the Watergate break-in.

The articles were drafted by the committee's counsel John M. Doar, a Republican, and Albert E. Jenner, the chief GTP counsel.

Mr. Nixon was said to have furthered the alleged conspiracy through such means as "subornation of perjury," the "purchase of silence" of the burglars and "unlawful interference" with the government's investigation.

"For all this," the first of the staff's proposed articles declared, "Richard M. Nixon is personally and directly responsible."

Committee members, including some Republicans who had been sharply critical of the inquiry staff during impeachment hearings, said yesterday that the summation by Doar and Jenner had been impressive.

But virtually all of the committee members said they would refrain from drawing conclusions from

the material until they formally debate the impeachment issue next week.

Doar told reporters following his presentation at the closed hearing yesterday morning that he had told the committee he believes the evidence "warrants impeachment on one or more articles."

Various panel members said that both Doar and Jenner, who had refrained deliberately from offering conclusions during ten weeks of hearings, had become advocates of impeachment yesterday.

In a style that Representative William S. Cohen (Rep-Me.) described as "dramatic," Doar reportedly told the committee that the defense of the President presented Thursday by Mr. Nixon's lawyers was "irreconcilable" with the evidence. *(is for)*

Doar said that both direct and circumstantial evidence led ineluctably to the conclusion that the President had directed and furthered violations of law and his constitutional obligations.

According to several members, Jenner declared that the panel had an obligation to live up to the ideals of the nation's founders and the authors of the Constitution and to determine "whether that country and

that Constitution are to be preserved."

The introduction yesterday of the proposed articles of impeachment was merely the beginning of the deliberative — and decisive — stage of the committee's inquiry.

From the five sets of possible articles the panel will decide how to frame a formal accusation against Mr. Nixon and then, perhaps late next week, whether to recommend that the full House adopt it.

In both the duplicate drafts of impeachment articles and in the staff outline of the evidence, the meticulously balanced tone that had characterized the staff's earlier presentation of material was dropped altogether.

In its place were suggested, and damning, declarations that Mr. Nixon had made "false and misleading statements" to investigators and the public about his role in the various scandals and that he had committed "various abuses of presidential powers."

One suggested article stated, for example, that the 1971 burglary at the office of a psychiatrist who had treated Daniel Ellsberg was "solely" to obtain information for "public defamation" of Ellsberg and was "part of a pattern of massive and persistent abuse of power for political purposes."

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