

SFChronicle JUL 20 1974

Ziegler Charges Probers With Lack of Fairness

San Clemente.

White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler sharply criticized Chairman Peter J. Rodino of the House Judiciary Committee yesterday, saying he has been "falsely presenting a picture of fairness" in handling the impeachment inquiry.

Talking to reporters at the Nixons' California home, Ziegler said he was reflecting the official White House position in criticizing the New Jersey Democrat and committee counsel John Doar.

Ziegler said Doar and other unnamed persons on the committee staff "have shed their false cloak of impartiality."

Barlier yesterday, Doar presented impeachment proposals to the committee.

Ziegler specifically accused Rodino of controlling the public release of evidence gathered by the committee in an effort to "manipulate public opinion."

The press secretary said Rodino and Doar have "made a total shambles out of what should have been a fair proceedings" and have been "putting aside all the principles of fairness."

The Nixon spokesman expressed particular dismay that Doar advocated Mr. Nixon's impeachment before the committee.

He also was critical of the committee's mixed reception of a partial transcript provided the panel Thursday

by Mr. Nixon's lawyer in an effort to show the President neither knew about nor condoned payment of hush money to Watergate defendants.

Some committee members had expressed anger that the White House had produced so near the end of the committee's deliberations the 2½-page partial transcript of a conversation subpoenaed in full by the committee.

Ziegler, who had been restrained in the past in discussing Rodino and the committee staff, contended that the chairman reacted to the new White House transcript by saying in effect, "Oh please don't give us the facts."

He said he feels Rodino and Doar, who is a Republican, have been acting all along "in a duplicitous and false way."

At another point, the press secretary suggested Rodino and Doar may be trying to operate "a kangaroo court," but he expressed confidence the full house would vote down any bill of impeachment against Mr. Nixon.

Associated Press



UPI Telephoto

ZIEGLER CRITICIZED THE COMMITTEE
He said he was reflecting an official position