

Ziegler Impugns Inquiry As a 'Kangaroo Court'

Continued From Page 1, Col. 8

of the committee, Peter W. Rodino Jr. of New Jersey, of "falsely presenting a picture of fairness."

Later, at a news briefing, Mr. Ziegler said that the committee's chief counsel, John M. Doar, along with "radicals and partisans" on the committee, were seeking to force a "prejudgment" of Presidential guilt on other members of the committee as well as the rest of the House of Representatives by "presenting a biased and partisan case."

Doar Strongly Attacked

Mr. Ziegler directed his sharpest attacks at Mr. Doar, who presented to the committee today the staff recommendations for articles of impeachment against President Nixon.

"It is appalling and startling," Mr. Ziegler said, that "this staff lawyer," appointed by the majority chairman of the committee, should recommend "a course of action on such an important constitutional matter."

He suggested that Mr. Doar's role should have been limited to presenting the evidence to the committee in a "fair way." Not only has Mr. Doar presented the evidence in a "distorted" way, Mr. Ziegler charged, but he has also violated constitutional procedures by presenting the articles of impeachment to the committee, the press secretary asserted.

"There is no proceeding in our free system where someone who has the key responsibility like Mr. Doar has, that justifies in anyway whatsoever the drawing up of impeachment articles before the evidence has been presented, unless it is a kangaroo court, and I would suggest that Mr. Doar may feel he is conducting that kind of proceeding."

Mr. Ziegler said that the President would have no direct comment on today's presentation of impeachment articles. However, he stated that "I am speaking as the President's spokesman."

White House Tactic

The harshness of Mr. Ziegler's attack on the Judiciary Committee would seem to indicate that the White House is convinced that the committee will vote to recommend articles of impeachment to the House of Representatives.

Now, apparently, the White House is seeking to persuade the House to reject the articles on the ground that they were allegedly prepared in a partisan and unfair way.

At total's briefing, Mr. Zieg-

ler said that the White House insists clears Mr. Nixon of charges that he authorized or knew of the payment of "hush money" to the Watergate burglary figures.

The excerpts were given yesterday to the House committee, and some members expressed anger then because the Nixon defense lawyer, James D. St. Clair had released a small part of the evidence the committee had demanded.

Mr. Ziegler, responding today to that anger, contended that the committee was not interested in the facts. "They came of the meeting and said, 'Oh, please don't give us the facts,'" Mr. Ziegler said.

Now that the committee has the excerpt, he asserted. "The facts are there in black and white." He said the facts show that the President did not know of or authorize the payment of hush money.

"Now the House Judiciary can either look at the facts and make their judgement on facts or they can do it in a partisan, duplicitous, false way, like Mr. Doar and the partisans on that committee are proceeding, and I feel this very strongly," Mr. Ziegler said.

Restricted Forces

The articles of impeachment recommended today were based on far broader charges than a possible authorization of bribe money to the original Watergate defendants. However, in his discussion of the facts before the committee, Mr. Ziegler focused on the "hush money" issue.

Mr. St. Clair has also concentrated on this narrow issue in much of his argument before the judiciary committee.

In recent weeks, the White House has assailed the committee and its methods with increasing frequency, asserting that President Nixon has been denied due process in the entire impeachment proceeding. Mr. Ziegler reiterated that charge today.

Mr. Doar, he said, "is a partisan, has been a partisan from the beginning. Doar out there this morning was advocating the President's impeachment," Mr. Ziegler said, based on "a lot of theories, speculation, innuendo—but not on facts to support the charges."

'Radical' Defined

Asked to define what he meant by "radicals" on the committee, Mr. Ziegler said he referred to members who were "radical in their view of the President of the United States." These "radicals," he said, presumably meaning members who favored the President's impeachment "generally come



The New York Times

A member of the Citizens Congress of the National Citizens' Committee for Fairness to the Presidency waiting outside the House Judiciary Committee impeachment hearing to talk to a committee member from her state. Thursday night, group held rally for 1,500 supporters.

Ziegler Calls Panel A 'Kangaroo Court'

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By PHILIP SHABECOFF

Special to The New York Times

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., July 19—In its harshest attack yet on the House Judiciary Committee, the White House ac-



United Press International

Ronald L. Ziegler, White House press secretary, assailing the impeachment inquiry in his news briefing yesterday at Mr. Nixon's estate in San Clemente, Calif.