

Focus on Three Charges

Articles of Impeachment

Washington

The proposed articles of impeachment presented yesterday to the House Judiciary Committee focus closely on the Watergate break-in and coverup and on surveillance activities directed from the White House.

Each of the two articles conclude that "Richard N. Nixon by such conduct warrants impeachment and trial and removal from office."

The two articles charge the President with obstructing justice in the Watergate investigation and with abusing the powers of his office.

In the hours before the start of the debate, a third article that charged Mr. Nixon with contempt of Congress for his refusal to obey committee subpoenas was merged into the abuse-of-power article.

Earlier in the week, during closed sessions, agreement was reached to drop another article based upon the President's tax troubles.

The first article said the President "using the powers of his great office, has made it his continuing policy to act . . . to delay, impede and obstruct the investigation" of the Watergate break-in.

It also accuses Mr. Nixon of acting "to coverup and conceal the identity of those responsible . . ."

The article lists nine specific acts, including:

"Making false and misleading statements."

Approving and condoning such statements by others;

Interfering with the investigations by the Justice Department, the FBI and the special Watergate prosecutor's office;

Approving and concealing the payment of hush money;

Endeavoring to misuse the Central Intelligence Agency to Cover up Watergate;

"Suppressing, withholding and concealing evidence;"

Endeavoring to make the Watergate break-in defendants believe they would get "favored treatment in return for silence or false testimony;"

Giving information re-

Kerner Quits The Bench

Chicago

Federal Judge Otto Kerner, former governor of Illinois due to begin serving a prison term next week for bribery, resigned yesterday from the U.S. Court of Appeals.

Kerner, the first federal judge ever convicted of a felony, informed court offi-

ceived from Justice Department officials to persons under investigation in Watergate "for the purpose of aiding or assisting their avoidance of criminal liability;"

"Making false or misleading public statements to deceive the people of the United States into believing that a thorough and complete investigation had been conducted into alleged misconduct at the White House and the Committee for the Re-election of the President."

The abuse-of-power article

cial in Chicago that he has submitted his resignation to Chief Justice Warren Burger.

Kerner is scheduled to surrender Monday to begin serving a three-year prison term in Lexington, Ky., for his conviction in connection with an Illinois race track stock scandal.

Associated Press

cites eight allegations, including:

"Has authorized illegal surveillance and investigation of persons by the FBI, the Secret Service and agents of the Office of the President and the use and dissemination of information gathered in violation of the constitutional rights of citizens."

"Has used the executive power to establish unlawfully a special White House investigative unit to engage in unlawful covert activities" including the break-in at the

office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist;

Attempting to use "the executive power to obtain confidential information from the Internal Revenue Service and cause discriminatory tax investigations;"

Attempting to interfere with the proper administration of the FBI by directing the agency to maintain wiretaps on individuals, by instructing acting FBI director L. Patrick Gray III to destroy Watergate-related documents and "by obstructing and impeding and causing subordinates to obstruct and impede" the FBI investigation of the Watergate break-in;

Impeding the Watergate investigation through a variety of acts including the fir-

ing of former special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox;

Inducing the CIA to assist the White House Plumbers unit in carrying out "unlawful, covert activities for his political benefit;"

Using the executive power to impede inquiries by withholding and suppressing evidence.

Refusing to obey committee subpoenas.

Associated Press