Panel's Olympian Tone Shed in Rugged Debate

By R. W. APPLE Jr.

cial to The New York Times WASHINGTON, July 26-The House Judiciary Committee came down from Olympus today.

The committee's seriousness of purpose remained intact in its third day of public impeachment deliberations, but with the end of the open-ing statements by the 38 members, ceremony gave way to nitty-gritty.

Vanished were the exquisite politeness, the polished rhetoric, the infinite concern for decorum, the preoccupation with large verities of the first two days.

Even though everyone within 500 yards of the committee room took it for granted that a bill of impeachment would be approved, the committee had to get down to working out final language. It did so in a welter of rollcalls, procedural haggles and substantive debate.

The air was filled with requests for unanimous consent for this or that, reference to distinguished gentlemen from here or there, cries of "Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman!" The proceedings in room 2141 of the Rayburn Office Building were approaching the Congressional norm.

Representative Charles W. Sandman Jr., the acerbic Republican from Erma Park,

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N.J., told his colleagues: "I can't believe this is the same group that made all those speeches yesterday and the day before."

There were some classic wrangles.

One of them revolved around the question of whether the original Article I of the bill had to be read before a substitute for it could be read, or would it suffice to decree that the original Article I was assumed to have bee read?

Finally, after a discussion that took nearly as long as that took nearly as long as reading the original article would have taken, it was solemnly concluded that the first two words of the orig-inal would be read ("It is . . ."), and then the substi-tute could be offered. "Every time we get into

tute could be offered. "Every time we get into facts," said Representative John F. Seiberling, Democrat of Ohio, "the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. Sandman] gets us off into procedure, and every time we get into procedure, the gentleman Indiana [Representative David W. Dennis, a Republican] gets W. Dennis, a Republican] gets us back into facts."

Mr. Sandman and Mr. Den-nis, an emotional man who resembles the late Felix Frankfurter, lost their tem-Frankfurter, lost their tem-pers. Mr. Sandman yelled at a colleague that "I do not yield any further for those kinds of speeches." And Mr. Dennis, waving his arms, shouted "You can't just tear up the Constitution and throw it away and their whot were it away, and that's what you guys are trying to do."

Huntgate's Elephant

The word "specificity" one member conceded that he couldn't pronounce it—was used on national television more times in a single day than in all the years since the invention of the cathode the invention of the cathode ray tube. Representative Rob-ert McClory, Republican of Illinois, tried the word twice, failed twice, broke up, and shifted to "specific allega-tions."

Toward evening, Repre-sentative William L. Hun-gaate, the Missouri Democrat from Mark Twain's home town, said he thought things were getting a little techni-cal

were getting a little techni-cal. Why some of the Republi-cans, he said, would quibble if an elephant walked into the hearing room. Some wouldn't be sure it was an theory that "it might be a mouse with a glandular con-dition."

Representative James R.

Mann. Democrat of South

Mann, Democrat of South Carolina, coldly accused his colleagues of showboating for the television audience. "I don't think Mr. Sand-man would be so strident or even so partisan," said Mr. Mann in his soft accent, "if these proceedings were not conducted to influence the American people." Through it all, Representa-

Through it all, Representa-tive Paul S. Sarbanes, the Maryland Democrat who in-Maryland Democrat who in-troduced the substitute Ar-ticle I, kept cool, blandly fending off sharp questions and patiently attempting to explain its intentions. He was the only man on the broad dais who didn't laugh at Mr. Hungate. It was precisely his calm

laugh at Mr. Hungate. It was precisely his calm, almost stoic temperament that led his colleagues to se-lect Mr. Sarbanes, a 41-year-old former Rhodes Scholar from Baltimore, as their point man. It helped, too, that he is from a border state, that he had said so little earlier in the inquiry that he had offended no one, and that— in the words of a colleague — "he's one of the best law-yers in the world." Fingering a pencil, scratch-

Fingering a pencil, scratch-ing a spot under his right eye, occasionally patting his wavy hair, Mr. Sarbanes kept doggedly at it all day, with the kind of persistence that helped him drive from office early in his career two senior Democratic members of Congress.

Ad Hominem

As tempers wore thinner,

As tempers wore thinner, the ad hominem attack en-tered the debate. The target: Albert E. Jenner Jr., the Chi-cago lawyer who once served as minority counsel and now serves as a de facto deputy majority counsel. Representative Delbert L. Matta, Republican of Ohio, called to his colleagues — and, as he said, the American people's — attention a Wall Street Journal article report-ing that a committee headed by Mr. Jenner had urged the repeal of anti-prostitution laws. laws.

That prompted Mr. Seiber-ling to demand an apology from his fellow "gentleman from Ohio," a demand promptly refused. It seemed like a long time since the opening of the ses-

It seemed like a long time since the opening of the ses-sion, when Mr. Seiberling, urging that the committee complete its work rapidly, quoted Judge Learned Hand's admonishment to dilatory

lawyers some years ago: "Gentlemen, some conces-sion must be made to the shortness of human life."