

Article II: Abuse of power

Knight News Service

WASHINGTON — Robert McClory, of Illinois, one of the most influential Republicans on the House Judiciary Committee, is expected to introduce a second proposed article of Impeachment when the committee meets again tomorrow.

The fact that McClory is scheduled to move for Impeachment recommendation is an indication that the committee probably will adopt more articles next week by increasing vote margins.

McClory's proposal is a new version of a charge President Nixon abused his powers by authorizing wiretapping, domestic spying, and by attempting "to corrupt and unlawfully use agencies" of the government.

Although McClory voted against Article I — the charge that the President aided the Watergate cover-up — he intends to support Article II. If he does, a 23-10 vote of approval is likely.

In exchange for his support, Democrats and other Republicans who helped McClory write the new proposed Article II, will back a third article of Impeach-

Impeachment timetable

Knight News Service

WASHINGTON — Here is the probable timing of impeachment proceedings in the weeks and months ahead:

July 29-30 — The House Judiciary Committee will complete its work and recommend two, or possibly three, articles of impeachment. The committee staff will prepare a detailed report explaining each of the charges and citing the evidence it feels backs them up.

Aug. 5 — The House Rules Committee will open two or three days of debate on the procedures to be followed by the entire House. The hearings are expected to be public, and to focus on such questions as how many hours debate to allow and how many amendments, if any, to permit.

Aug. 12 — The House will begin debating the articles.

Aug. 22-23 — A formal vote is expected in the House on whether or not to impeach the President and send him for trial in the Senate. The President's lawyers will be given time to prepare his defense.

Sept. 16, approximately — The Senate trial begins. According to tentative plans, it will run five or six hours a day, six days a week, until completed. Senate leaders of both parties hope to complete the trial before the end of the 93rd Congress on Jan. 3, 1975.

ment, charging the President with unlawfully disobeying the subpoenas of the Judiciary Committee in contempt of Congress.

That charge had been part of the original Article II, but McClory wanted it to be a separate article.

Thus it appears the committee will recommend to the House that at least three articles of impeachment be sent to the Senate for trial.

Because Article I has already passed and a recommendation of impeachment is now a fact, it is expected

that Article II will have an easier time getting through the committee.

Unlike the Watergate cover-up charge in the first article, which was a complicated recitation of a broad conspiracy, Article II charges specific "abuses of power."

It contains a catch-all clause, advocated by McClory and others, that the President "failed to take care that the laws be faithfully executed."

More specifically the alleged abuses of power include: the 1960-71 wiretapping of reporters and government officials; the creation of the "plumbers," the secret White House unit that burglarized the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist; and the misuse of agencies like the Internal Revenue Service to harass political opponents.

Despite expectations that Article II will go down easier, Committee Chairman Peter W. Rodino Jr. is taking no chances. Unhappy that Republicans were able to catch his impeachment forces off guard Friday and stall the adoption of Article I, Rodino has called a Democratic caucus today to map next week's strategy.