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Speculation Turns To the 'Managers'

By Saul Kohler Newhouse News Service

With the impeachment of President Nixon by the House of Representatives now rated between "likely" and "assured," speculation has turned toward the group of congressment who would present the House's case—in effect, the prosecutors—if there is a trial in the Senate.

They are called the "managers," and would be members of Congress, although special counsel John Doar of the House Judiciary Committee probably would be a member of the group.

Chairman Peter W. Rodino Jr. (D-N.J.) probably will head the managers in presenting the case for removal of the President in the name of the House of Representatives "and of all the people of the United States of America."

"The managers will be selected by the speaker upon the recommendation of the committee chairman and the leadership of the House," Rodino said. "It is much in the nature of a conference committee. But we cannot be anticipatory, we cannot get ahead of ourselves, and we haven't yet reached that point."

It is widely assumed there will be five managers, who will sit together with Doar and associate counsel Albert Jenner, who started the Judiciary Committee hearings

as minority counsel but was shifted by the Republicans to the Doar side when Jenner recommended impeachment.

"Obviously, there will be geographic considerations as well as party lines," said Rep. Charles Wiggins (R-Calif.), the President's principal defender on the Judiciary Committee. "Me? You can count me out. They'll pick the Republican managers from those who voted for impeachment. I believe the President should not be impeached."

If that is the case, the Republican managers well could be Reps. Tom Railsback of Illinois and Lawrence J. Hogan of Maryland, with Rep. William S. Cohen of Maine a possibility, since Hogan might decide not to serve.

In addition to Rodino, the betting is on Democratic Reps. James. Mann of South Carolina and Don Edwards of California, with Rep. Walter Flowers of Alabama an alternate Southern possibility. Rep. Paul S. Sarbanes of Maryland also is a likely candidate for manager if Hogan is not selected on the GOP side.

The two female members of the committee, Democrats Barbara Jordan (Tex.) and Elizabeth Holtzman (N.Y.), likewise are highly

regarded, and one of them could be included.

The object is to get a soft sell over in the Senate," said Rep. Robert W. Kastenmeier (D-Wis.), "Just as we have tried to do here. That's what makes Mann so effective, and what would make him a great manager if there is a trial. He speaks softly and says a great deal—and that's what the Senate will want."