

# HOUSE TIMETABLE APPEARS TO SLIP

## Rodino Says Unit Will Need More Time to Prepare Its Impeachment Report

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WASHINGTON, July 30—

The timetable for action by the House of Representatives on the articles of impeachment against President Nixon appeared to slip a bit today.

Democratic leaders of the House, who tentatively had planned to begin the impeachment debate on the House floor Aug. 12, said they had been told by Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr., Democrat of New Jersey, the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, that the panel would need extra time to prepare its report accompanying the articles of impeachment.

That report, which will also include minority views of committee members opposed to impeachment, is expected to be the key document in the floor debate since it will detail the evidence the committee majority believes will support the articles of impeachment.

Representative Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., Democrat of Massachusetts, the majority leader, told reporters that the House debate might start by Aug. 15, but one source on the Judiciary Committee put the starting date at Aug. 19, a week later than previously planned.

"If Peter says he needs extra time, he'll get extra time," Mr. O'Neill said of Mr. Rodino.

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## Two Weeks of Debate

House leaders had tentatively figured that the floor debate would last two weeks, but Mr. O'Neill said the leadership had not discarded its target date of Aug. 23 or 24 to complete action. He quoted Mr. Rodino as saying that the House might not require a full two weeks to debate and vote on the articles of impeachment.

Once the Judiciary Committee completes its work, the next step will be for Mr. Rodino and other committee members to go before the House Rules Committee next week to request the ground rules for the floor debate.

Still unresolved are such questions as to how long the debate should last—estimates range from 60 to 100 hours—and to what extent the articles of impeachment would be open for amendment on the floor.

Earlier today the Democratic leadership prevailed on the Rules Committee to delay action on a resolution that would permit television coverage of the House floor debate. Speaker of the House Carl Albert, Democrat of Oklahoma, said he wanted to sound out members of the Judiciary Committee on the matter. He said that if television coverage of the floor debate was not permitted "at least it should be recorded" for historical purposes.

In the Senate, Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia, the Democratic whip, introduced a resolution that would permit television coverage of a Senate impeachment trial.

"If the Senate is faced with an impeachment trial, I feel it is imperative that the American people have confidence in the justice, the fairness, and the correctness of the decision," Mr. Byrd told the Senate.

Republican Senators also discussed the possibility of a televised Senate trial at their weekly policy committee luncheon but came to no conclusion, according to senator John G. Tower, Republican of Texas, chairman of the policy committee.

Mr. Tower said he thought a majority of the Senate would favor television if the cameras were restricted to covering only the trial proceedings in the well of the Senate.