

Drafter of Article III

Robert McClory

WASHINGTON, July 30— Robert McClory had no ambition to practice law, and once he became a lawyer he did not want to be a politician. Twelve years after he was elected to the House of Representatives from Illinois, he was dead-set against voting to impeach President Nixon. Last night, Mr. McClory did just that, and today he introduced an impeachment article of his own.

"I started out with the view that I wasn't going to vote any impeachment," the second-ranking Republican on the House Judiciary Committee said this morning. Then dropping his spoon of cornflakes in mid-course, he added: "No impeachment at all."

"I suppose the first blow came when the President, instead of releasing the tapes to us, released the transcripts to the public," he said.

But his wife, Doris, said the factor that "really undid" him was when the Congressman listened to the tapes of the President's conversations with his key aides.

A Gradual Change

Mr. McClory said he decided after listening to the tapes that he would not let "the low moral tone of the conversations that took place in the White House" prejudice his views.

His decision to vote for articles of impeachment citing the President for abuse of power and contempt of Congress "came gradually," Mr. McClory said. He voted against the first article of impeachment charging the President with obstruction of justice, because, he said, the "evidence didn't show the President was personally involved in criminal conduct."

The baldish 66-year-old Congressman, who holds equal seniority with the ranking Republican on the Judiciary Committee, Edward

Hutchinson of Michigan, has frequently been considered a key to the number of Republican conservatives who will vote to impeach the President on the House floor.

Some even speculate that Mr. McClory is so influential that he will be asked to help prosecute the case against the President should there be a trial in the Senate. Mr. McClory has no desire to fulfill that role, but he has done many things in his life that he once had no intention of doing.

He was born on Jan. 31, 1908, the son of "the village lawyer" in Riverside, Ill. But Mr. McClory grew up holding the legal profession in disstate.

"I always thought the law was too much controversy," he said. But as a young banker in Chicago, he needed a law degree to gain promotion as a trust officer. Consequently, he attended Kent College of Law in Chicago at night, graduating in 1932.

That year, the bank folded, and Mr. McClory was forced to fall back on his law degree for a job.

However, the job that Mr. McClory said he "enjoyed the best" in his life was teaching English at a Swiss school for a year after he graduated from Dartmouth in 1928.

Before leaving Switzerland, Mr. McClory became the pole-vaulting champion of the Canton de Vaud, and to this day he holds an intense passion for athletics.

Swimmer and Skier

The Congressman, whose eyelids seem to droop from age, likes to play two hours of tennis each Saturday and Sunday, often with his colleagues on the Judiciary Committee. He will drive five hours to West Virginia just to ski for the day. He scuba dives and often canoes on the Potomac with Mrs. McClory, whom he married six years ago, after his first wife died. Mr. McClory has three chil-



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Robert McClory, Illinois Republican, arguing for approval of Article III, involving the President's refusal to honor some subpoenas. The article, proposed by Mr. McClory, was amended and adopted.

dren and three grandchildren.

According to a voting study done by the Ralph Nader Congress project, Mr. McClory presents a "paradox to even the most casual observer."

"While publicly voicing support of such popular issues as environmental protection, consumer affairs and aid to education," the 1972 report says, "the Illinois Congressman does a quiet about-face when it comes to putting his vote where his voice is."

Such an analysis does not surprise those who have tried

to measure Mr. McClory's sentiment on the question of impeachment over the last month. The standing joke, among reporters who traded quotes from Mr. McClory in the halls outside the Judiciary Committee room, was **always** to ask what time he said it.

Two weeks ago he went before the television cameras and predicted that eight or nine Republicans might vote for the President's impeachment. As he walked away from the cameras, he asked a reported, "Was that too high Maybe it should be five or six."

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