

NYTimes AUG 1 1974  
**CONGRESS CHIEFS  
CONFER ON RULES  
FOR IMPEACHMENT**

**Albert and House Leaders  
Study Formula to Allow  
Changes in Articles**

**PRECEDENT IS LACKING**

**Mansfield Also Discusses  
Revision of Regulations  
for a Senate Trial**

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 31 —

Congressional leaders met in closed session today to plan the next moves in both houses that eventually could remove President Nixon from office.

With impeachment articles formally drawn, Speaker Carl Albert conferred with key house members, including Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr. of New Jersey who is the Judiciary Committee chairman, and the majority leader, Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. of Massachusetts, as well as the House parliamentarian, William H. Brown.

The purpose, as Mr. Albert put it, was to "put our ducks in a row."

The House leaders examined the alternatives for the next official step of the impeachment process: placing debate on the impeachment articles under a rule, the formal procedure under which the matter will be argued.

**Rule on Changes**

Several members of the House Rules committee, including Representatives Richard Bolling, Democrat of Missouri, and John B. Anderson, Republican of Illinois, said they expected that the committee would set what is known as a "modified open rule" for the impeachment debate on the House floor.

Such a rule would allow House members to make changes in the impeachment articles paragraph by paragraph, rather than word by word, and would thus have the effect of speeding the debate.

Representative Ray J. Mad-

den, Democrat of Indiana, the Rules Committee chairman, said he had called an informal meeting for 2 P.M. tomorrow of members of both committees and the House leadership to discuss the rule-making process.

**'Meeting of Minds'**

"Nobody in the House knows a thing about impeachment rule and I'm seeking a meeting of the minds," he said.

Mr. Madden and other Rules Committee members pointed out that in the only impeachment of a President, in 1868, there was no standing Rules Committee; thus a precedent is lacking. The committee's procedure itself will determine how the debate is to continue, who controls the allotted time, and how the articles are to be amended.

"That was a bonfire impeachment," Mr. Madden said of the attempt to remove President

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Andrew Johnson from office. "The articles were thrown on the floor of the House, fist fights broke out on the floor and it was an awful mess."

Under the assumption that the House will impeach the President, the Senate is also to set up its own rules for what could be the trial of Mr. Nixon.

The Senate majority leader, Mike Mansfield of Montana, met with members of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee to discuss revision of the rules under which a Senate trial would be conducted, including opening it to television.

In an 18-page memorandum presented to the committee, Mr. Mansfield urged restrictions on the power of Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, who would preside over a Senate trial.

**Limitation of Power**

Senator Mansfield proposed a limitation on Mr. Burger's power to supervise pretrial preparations, and asked that the Chief Justice not be allowed to break ties on procedural matters.

But Republican leader Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania pointed out to the committee that in 1868, Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase was given the right to vote on procedural ties.

The Mansfield proposals also sought a change in the wording of the burden of proof, under which the President could be found guilty, from "beyond a reasonable doubt" to "clear and convincing evidence."

While work on the Senate's trial rules is far from over, Senator Mansfield's move, and the opposition to it by Senator Scott, appeared to signal a partisan split, something the House leadership of both parties is

seeking to avoid.

The House Republican leader, John J. Rhodes of Arizona, said he was also concerned about a possible split within the party in the House over the impeachment issue. He said he would make his own position known next Monday. He met today with Republican members of the Judiciary Committee to hear their arguments for and against impeachment.

After completing the drawing of the articles of impeachment last night, the Judiciary Committee did not meet today.

But its members drafted statements in support of their positions.

These will be included in the formal committee report on its impeachment investigation, which has taken all year. The committee staff worked on the report today.

The formal report, including the articles of impeachment, the evidence in support of the articles, and the positions of the committee members, is due to be presented to the House next week, perhaps on Tuesday.

This also is expected to be the day when the House Rules Committee formally takes up the rulemaking procedure. Mr. Rodino will formally send a copy of the report to the Rules Committee with a request that it determine the rule under which the articles will be taken up on the House floor.

Mr. O'Neill said yesterday that some Democrats felt that 100 hours of floor debate on the impeachment articles might be appropriate. However, some Republican members said privately that they believed that 60 hours would be sufficient.

Mr. Bolling said, "I don't think everyone is going to have to talk." Mr. Madden said, "We've got 435 Congressmen and everyone wants to make a speech."

While the House rule-making procedure has yet to begin, discussions with five rules committee members seemed to indicate that the panel would allow a liberal period for debate and permit a moderate amount of revision of the articles.

Ten Republican members of the Judiciary Committee caucused today and said they would prohibit the House from amending the articles. Some supporters of impeachment have said that they fear that amendments from the House floor might weaken the articles and undermine the case against

The only Republican on the Judiciary Committee to vote for all three impeachment articles, Representative Lawrence J. Hogan of Maryland, sent a letter to his 186 Republican colleagues urging them to "welcome and demand" Mr. Nixon's impeachment.

Mr. Hogan said some party members had severely criticized him for his stand, but added that Republicans would

welcome the elevation of Vice President Ford to the White House because it would restore public confidence in government.

Several Congressional supporters of the President said that they believe that impeachment and trial was almost inevitable. These included Representative Charles E. Wiggins of California, who led Mr. Nixon's defense during the Judiciary Committee hearings, and Senator John G. Tower of Texas.

Senator Walter F. Mondale of Minnesota, who is exploring the possibility of a Democratic Presidential nomination in 1976, said that he believed that a Senate trial might run into November or December.

Speaking on the CBS radio show, "Capitol Cloakroom," Mr. Mondale said: "I do not think we should vote before the election. I don't think it's fair to the President to ask those of us who are in politics to confuse the gravity of the issue of the President's guilt with the question of how it will work in their own election."