

Rules Panel Votes Live TV for Debate in House

NYT
8-7-74



The New York Times/Mike Lien

Ray J. Madden, Indiana Democrat, at the head of the table, addressing the House Rules Committee. In the foreground are Del Clawson, left, California Republican, and Morgan F. Murphy, Illinois Democrat. The panel met to set impeachment debate rules.

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6— Without a trace of opposition, the House Rules Committee approved by voice vote today a resolution permitting live television and radio coverage of the House floor debate on the impeachment of President Nixon, which is scheduled to start Aug. 19.

The resolution, which is expected to be approved by the full House, possibly tomorrow, authorized the Democratic and Republican leaders to draw up "necessary and

appropriate" regulation for the broadcast coverage, subject to final approval of the Speaker of the House, Carl Albert, Democrat of Oklahoma.

The leaders have discussed limiting the coverage to camera shots of the rostrum, the well of the House and the desks of the majority and minority party leadership and forbidding roving camera shots.

Some members of the Rules Committee had opposed a resolution last month permitting live coverage of the Judi-

ciary Committee's proceedings, on the ground that it could turn the debate into a "circus."

But Representative Sidney R. Yates, Democrat of Illinois, who first proposed live television coverage last January, told the committee today, "I believe the members of the Judiciary Committee last week made the best argument I could make for television coverage." He said it was "essential for the American people to see the remainder of this historic debate."