NPACT’s Coverage of
The House Judiciary Committee Proceedings
(Impeachment Hearings)

Episode Guide

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How to use this finding aid:

**Reading the Time Codes**: NPACT’s coverage of the hearings was recorded onto multiple reels of videotape each day. The reels have been digitized onto separate files. The first number listed in the time codes below refers to the number of each day’s file. For example, (1, 03:50) refers to the third minute and fiftieth second of the first reel/file.

**Live/Recorded Coverage**: NPACT’s broadcasts of the House Judiciary Committee were a combination of live and recorded coverage. As a result, the broadcasts for the last two days (July 29 and July 30) begins halfway into the debate, then switches to a replay of taped coverage from the beginning of the hearing when the live broadcast ends. Therefore, if you are attempting to watch the hearing from start to finish, you should begin with the middle of the third reel and proceed in the order 3, 4, 5, 6, 1, 2, 3. If you would like to watch the broadcasts as audiences at the time would have watched, watch the clips in the given order.

**Line Up Summaries**: Some episodes have “line ups” given at the beginning of the taped coverage by NPACT correspondents Jim Lehrer and Paul Duke. They cover the main points of that day’s debate.

**Missing Reel**: There is one missing reel (July 25) from the AAPB collection that has not been digitized. This is noted in this episode guide as “missing reel.”

**Transcripts**: Transcripts for the July proceedings were produced and published by the House Judiciary Committee. This volume has been digitized by HathiTrust and can be found here: [https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/003214185](https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/003214185). Since these transcripts come from a U.S. Government publication and not from NPACT, they do not include the components of NPACT’s coverage.

Day 1: May 9, 1974

(00:38) Video feed begins

(09:18) Chairman Peter W. Rodino (D N.J.) gavels the caucus to order
  - reads House Resolution 803 and gives operating principles for the Committee

(14:15) Edward Hutchinson (R Mich.)
  - defines and discusses impeachment

(17:50) Harold D. Donohue (D Mass.)
  - moves that the Committee go into executive session to ensure confidentiality

(19:20) Debate and inquiries over the motion to enter executive session

(25:40) Roll call vote
  - Approved, 31-6
  - Television cameras removed from the room
Day 2: July 24, 1974

(1, 00:24) NPACT intro

(1, 00:55) Opening commentary from Jim Lehrer, Paul Duke, and Carolyn Lewis (NPACT reporter)

- Debate and voting open today with each member speaking in order of seniority, alternating Democrats and Republicans with 15 minutes each
- 8-0 ruling earlier that day from Supreme Court, Nixon will release the tapes to Judge Sirica
- It is expected that the Committee will vote to impeach on at least 3 charges

(1, 04:53) Conversation with Barbara Tuchman (Historian)

(1, 16:27) Rodino calls the Committee to order, delivers opening statement

(1, 30:25) Edward Hutchinson (R-Mich.)

(1, 38:20) Harold D. Donohue (D-Mass.)

(1, 47:52) Robert McClory (R-Ill.)

(1, 61:05) Jack Brooks (D-Texas)

(1, 65:45) Henry P. Smith III (R-N.Y.)

(1, 72:05) Robert W. Kastenmeier (D-Wis.)

(1, 82:04) Committee enters recess, Lehrer, Duke, Lewis, and Tuchman comment

- Interviews with congressmen

(2, 40:20) Charles W. Sandman Jr. (R-N.J.)

(2, 57:35) Don Edwards (D-Calif.)

(2, 68:20) Tom Railsback (R-Ill.)

(2, 87:35) William L. Hungate (D-Mo.)

(3, 11:16) Closing commentary
First reel missing

Missing speeches include:

- Charles E. Wiggins (R-Calif.)
- John Conyers, Jr. (D-Mich.)
- David W. Dennis (R-Ind.)
- Joshua Eilberg (D-Pa.)

(2, 01:10) Hamilton Fish, Jr. (R-N.Y.)

(2, 10:40) Charles E. Wiggins continues

(2, 16:47) Jerome R. Waldie (D-Calif.)

(2, 30:16) Wiley Mayne (R-Iowa)

(2, 45:43) Walter Flowers (D-Ala.)

(2, 60:10) Committee enters recess

(2, 63:55) Committee exits recess, Lawrence J. Hogan (R-Md.)

(2, 82:33) James R. Mann (D-S.C.)

(3, 07:30) M. Caldwell Butler (R-Va.)

(3, 16:48) Paul S. Sarbanes (D-Md.)

(3, 33:50) William S. Cohen (R-Maine)

(3, 50:41) George E. Danielson (D-Calif.)

(3, 58:10) Committee enters recess due to a bomb threat

(3, 62:32) Committee exits recess, Danielson continues

(3, 73:50) Trent Lott (R-Miss.)

(3, 85:04) John F. Seiberling (D-Ohio)

(4, 09:32) Harlod V. Froehlich (R-Wis.)

(4, 20:58) Father Robert F. Drinan (D-Mass.)

(4, 35:52) Carlos J. Moorhead (R-Calif.)

(4, 51:55) Committee enters recess, Lehrer and Duke discuss
• Today has made clear that the majority will vote for impeachment

(5, 00:20) NPACT introduction to President Nixon’s speech

(5, 00:50) Presidential speech live from Los Angeles, California

• Transcript: [http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=4307](http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=4307)

(5, 40:09) Lehrer and Duke discuss President’s speech and reintroduce debate

• Summary of how Nixon plans to deal with inflation
• Carolyn Lewis speaks with congressmen
• John Kramer (Georgetown University Law Center) and William Van Alstyne (Duke University) comment

(5, 61:30) Committee out of recess, Charles B. Rangel (D-N.Y.)

(5, 77:12) Joseph J. Maraziti (R-N.J.)

(5, 91:45) Barbara C. Jordan (D-Texas)

(6, 18:25) Delbert L. Latta (R-Ohio)

(6, 31:30) Ray Thornton (D-Ark.)

(6, 48:00) Elizabeth Holtzman (D-N.Y.)

(6, 60:43) Wayne Owens (D-Utah)

(6, 76:20) Edward Mezvinsky (D-Iowa)

(6, 91:30) Edward Hutchinson (R-Mich.)

(7, 08:42) Rodino adjourns

(7, 20:00) Closing commentary from Lehrer, Duke, Lewis, Kramer, and Van Alstyne

• Tomorrow, the Committee will begin discussing specific articles of impeachment
• 21 members have made clear that they are ready to vote for impeachment, 7 are leaning in that direction, 10 will vote against
(1, 01:15) Opening clip of Danielson and Dennis

(1, 02:20) Opening commentary from Lehrer, Duke, and Lewis

- Voting on Article I of impeachment
- Republicans against impeachment attempting to slow the process down in any way

**Line up for taped coverage** (1, 06:10)

(1, 07:30) Hearings begin

- Dennis: Delay the bill to “get all the evidence you can”
- Seiberling: Waiting would give Nixon the “opportunity to delay”
- Maraziti: “What? When? And Where?” offences occurred
- Sarbanes: “Varying conclusions” on when offences occurred since they were continuous
- Danielson: President had a “wealth of information” to use in his defense
- Wiggins: Raw material from the Committee is “ambiguous and confusing”
- Sandman: Draft impeachment articles are a “miscarriage of justice”
- Waldie: “The President lied” to the American people

(3, 01:50) Lehrer, Duke, and Lewis introduce live coverage

- Christopher Gaul (NPACT reporter) comments
- William Van Alstyne and Martin Diamond (Northern Illinois University) comment
- Lewis speaks with congressmen

(3, 79:40) Committee exits recess and continues debate

(6, 63:00) Motion to strike paragraph 1, Committee enters recess

- Fails, 11-27

(6, 66:11) Closing commentary

- Lewis speaks with congressmen
Day 5: July 27, 1974

(1, 01:24) Commentary from Martin Diamond, William Van Alstyne, Duke, and Lehrer

Hour by Hour Line Up (1, 04:10)

(1, 05:50) Committee gaveled to order

- Sandman: “Get on with it”
- Railsback: “Plan not policy” in the wording
- Cohen: “Information was passed to investigators”
- Wiggins: “Dean was up to his elbows” in getting money for Watergate defendants
- Butler: President approved Strachan’s perjury
- Lott: “No hard evidence” the President ever interfered with the FBI
- Owens: “The tapes made a real hard case”
- Waldie: “Public statements cemented the cover-up”
- Poll on articles of impeachment

(4, 35:20) Vote on Article I (Obstruction of Justice), Committee adjourns

- Adopted, 27-11

(4, 43:05) Closing commentary from Lehrer, Duke, and Lewis

- Conversation with Van Alstyne and Diamond
Day 6: July 29, 1974

(1, 00:25) Opening clips
(1, 01:50) Opening commentary for live coverage from Lehrer, Duke, and Chris Gaul
  - During evening session, expected to vote on Article II, coalition will likely hold
  - Today, Connally indicted in Milk fund case
  - Interviews with congressmen

(1, 11:15) Rodino gavels the caucus to order, debate ensues

(3, 45:05) Vote on Article II (Abuses of Power) and recess until tomorrow
  - Approved, 28-10

(3, 52:16) Commentary from Lehrer, Duke, Lewis, Chris Gaul, Jack Murphy (Georgetown University Law Center) and Stephen Hess (Brookings Institution)
  - Lewis speaks with congressmen

(3, 70:16) Taped replay coverage begins
  - Clip of congressmen voting on Article II

Line Up (3, 81:15)

(3, 82:31) Rodino gavels the caucus to order, debate ensues
  - Wiggins: “Abuses of power” charge is out of order because it fails to state an impeachable offense
  - Danielson: Abuse of oath of office is “a uniquely Presidential offense”
  - Sandman: “Not a single audit was made”
  - Hogan: Ellsberg case mistrial
  - Moorhead: President’s duty to stop leaks to save lives in Vietnam
  - Joshua Eilberg: Big brother not just in Russia
  - Fish: Pentagon Papers caused plumbers unit

(6, 09:48) Committee enters recess, commentary from Lehrer, Duke, and Lewis
  - Adjourn for the evening
Day 7: July 30, 1974

(1, 01:26) Opening Clips

(1, 02:35) Opening commentary from Lehrer, Duke, Lewis, Chris Gaul, George Will (syndicated columnist), and Jack Murphy

- Today, approved Article III (Contempt of Congress), 21-17 and rejected Article IV (Cambodia Bombing) failed, 12-26
- Will likely turn down other articles tonight, including Article V (Tax Evasion)

(1, 64:40) Rodino gavels the caucus to order, debate ensues

(3, 27:00) Vote on Article V (Tax Evasion)

- Rejected, 12-26

(3, 35:12) Committee adjourns, Lehrer, Duke, Lewis, Gaul, Will, and Murphy

- Lewis speaks with congressmen

(3, 58:52) Taped replay coverage begins

- Opening clip of voting on Article V

(3, 61:48) Lehrer and Duke opening commentary for rebroadcast

Line Up (3, 63:17)

- McClory: President is “stonewalling” Congress by not honoring subpoenas
- Froehlich: Committee should have gone to court
- Edwards: “Can’t destroy safety valve” in the system of giving Congress subpoena power
- Railsback: Third article is “political overkill”
- Latta: Secret bombing in Cambodia “done to save American lives”
- Cohen: Bombing the result of the “sloth and default of Congress”
- Waldie: “War powers have been abused”
- Flowers: “This is a bad rap”

(3, 64:35) Rodino gavels the caucus to order, debate ensues

(5, 34:00) Vote on Article III (Contempt of Congress)
• Approved, 21-17

(6, 46:30) Vote on Article IV (Cambodia Bombing)

• Rejected, 12-26

(6, 50:20) Closing commentary from Lehrer and Duke