

THOMAS F. RAILSBACK
19TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

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JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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March 1, 1974

Dear Colleague:

As we on the Judiciary Committee move forward with the impeachment inquiry, we are rapidly approaching the point at which enforcement of our subpoenas may be necessary. Believing that the Congressional procedures for compelling obedience to such subpoenas are cumbersome and inadequate, I intend to introduce legislation which will provide for their enforcement through the Federal District Court. I would like to take this opportunity to explain my proposal in the hope that you may be interested in co-sponsoring it.

This legislation closely parallels S. 2641 which was enacted into law and which provided for judicial enforcement of subpoenas issued by the Senate Select Committee on Watergate. If enacted, my proposal would allow the counsels for the Judiciary Committee to prosecute, in the Federal District Court for the District of Columbia, any civil actions necessary to enforce obedience to any subpoena issued by our Committee during its impeachment inquiry. I feel this legislation is necessary if we are to avoid entanglement in the troublesome and time-consuming process of Congressional subpoena enforcement. In addition, I do not believe that this measure would weaken or jeopardize the power of impeachment granted solely to the House of Representatives by the U.S. Constitution.

It is, of course, my hope that no group or individual will ignore or refuse our subpoenas since I am confident that they will be issued fairly, but if this undesirable situation occurs, I feel we must be prepared to move ahead vigorously. Therefore, I am proceeding with the introduction of the legislation detailed above.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this proposal or have any further questions please contact Keith in my office (5-5906) by Thursday, March 7, 1974.

Sincerely,

Tom Railsback
TOM RAILSBACK
Member of Congress