

Benjamin C. West

The Nixon Impeachment Hearings

Background on the decision to hold the Nixon impeachment hearings in the House Judiciary Committee Room in 1974.

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We had several meetings on logistics, and my central theme to the chairman was that this was a huge event of the century and that the Judiciary room, physically, could not absorb and provide the need, not only beyond his needs, but also media needs, as well. So I was kind of at the forefront of advocating to the chairman that we needed to move elsewhere, perhaps the Cannon Caucus Room would be quite suitable, and I described several hearings that I had worked in and on those premises and how functional it was. But Mr. Rodino was bent on perpetuating the history of the Judiciary Committee Room, and, while he did not reject the suggestion as not being sound, he wanted to continue the history of the Judiciary Committee Room, and, therefore, he spurned any notion of moving.