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Description

The impeachment case against President Bill Clinton is being presented by what are called House managers, under the direction of House Judiciary Chairman Henry Hyde. The 13 lawmakers are in fact prosecutors, with varying degrees of legal experience.

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Transcript

House Managers to Prosecute Impeachment of President Clinton
TOM BROKAW, anchor (Washington, DC):
The case against the President is being presented by what are called the House managers, under the direction of Judiciary Chairman Henry Hyde. But in fact they're prosecutors, a role many of them know well. And NBC's Lisa Myers has more tonight on the men who are making the case.
LISA MYERS reporting:
To conservatives they may be the dream team: 13 lawyers, all white, all male, all conservative, with varying degrees of legal talent. The lead prosecutor, Henry Hyde, was an insurance lawyer. Jim Sensenbrenner practiced law for only six months. But eight are former prosecutors, two--Ed Bryant and Asa Hutchinson--federal prosecutors with big time convictions from corruption to murder. But none has faced a jury like this.
Representative ASA HUTCHINSON (Republican, House Manager): This is certainly a humbling experience for a small town lawyer.
It's not like a traditional courtroom, and so you have to work within that, and the strictures of the Senate, and the dignity that they demand there.
MYERS: As a prosecutor in Arkansas, Hutchinson already convicted one Clinton, the President's brother Roger, on drug charges. Now his office is papered with the obstruction case against Bill Clinton. One of the stars of the team, Jim Rogan, resurrected the tattered briefcase he affectionately calls "The Brown Beast" from his prosecutor days for this, the case of his life. While Washington sleeps, Rogan often can be found in his office pulling an all-nighter.
Lindsey Graham says he's had to study so much, past Senate trials and the Starr Report, that he could teach a course on impeachment.
Representative LINDSEY GRAHAM (Republican, House Manager): If I'd have known this, I'd have probably voted for that congressional pay raise.
MYERS: Beyond convicting the President, prosecutors have one overriding goal, to vindicate themselves and the House. They want to show this was not the work of a partisan lynch mob, but a compelling case of wrongdoing by the President. Lisa Myers, NBC News, Washington.