

Cox Asks Committee For Closed Sessions

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WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House and the Senate Watergate committee no sooner settled one potential clash of wills Wednesday than the special Watergate prosecutor went to court and began another.

The prosecutor, Archibald Cox, asked a federal judge to

order the Senate committee to hear potentially incriminating testimony in closed session, or at least without radio and television coverage.

There was no immediate ruling, but the move seemed unlikely to set well with the committee, which has placed a pre-

mium on immediate public disclosure of all the facts surrounding the Watergate scandal.

Earlier in the day, the committee apparently averted a constitutional brawl with the White House—at least for the moment—when the White House agreed to provide Senate investigators with detailed information on conversations between President Nixon and John W. Dean III. But some question remained about whether the information the White House was willing to give is everything the investigators want to see.

Cox made his appeal in connection with a motion from the Senate committee asking that Dean and the former deputy director of the Nixon re-election campaign, Jeb S. Magruder, be given immunity from prose-

cution for what he says before the Senate panel.

Cox indicated he believed the immunity would be granted.

“The most appropriate order would be one requiring the testimony to be taken in executive session without subsequent public disclosure,” Cox said in a memorandum to U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica.

The conditions requested by Cox would apply only to testimony from witnesses in danger of being indicted on federal criminal charges.

Deputy White House Press Secretary Gerald L. Warren said the material to be turned over to the Senate select committee would specify dates and duration of face-to-face meetings and telephone conversations between Nixon and Dean, the White House counsel Nixon fired April 30.