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Watergate Probe Will Be Expanded

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and a special assistant to the special Watergate prosecutor both indicated on Friday that the scope of investigations related to the political espionage scandal may soon expand.

James Vorenberg, an assistant to Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox, said at a news conference that the White House has kept Cox's staff waiting more than a week for an answer to whether it will supply requested documents.

The White House responded that written requests were not received until this week and President Nixon's counsel has not had time to act on them.

Vorenberg said Cox's staff also is looking into possible major lines of inquiry related to the Watergate case but not yet publicized.

He urged Americans with information "they think may bear on Watergate" to contact his office and said some of the new inquiries are based on leads relayed by government employes and the general public. Vorenberg refused to be more specific.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Peter W. Rodino, D-N.J., said his panel is planning an extensive investigation of the Justice Department to determine whether politics has influenced its activities and decisions.

Rodino said the probe, which may be a staff study rather than a full committee project, could include the handling of its Watergate investigation.

In another development, the

Senate Watergate Committee announced it has subpoenaed the campaign-finance records of five 1972 Democratic presidential candidates.

The committee said it is seeking the money records of Democratic Sens. George McGovern of South Dakota, the eventual nominee; Edmund S. Muskie of Maine, Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota and Henry M. Jackson of Washington.