

Cox Ponders Nixon Subpoena

WASHINGTON (AP) — Special prosecutor Archibald Cox has received differing staff opinions on the legal questions of whether the Watergate grand jury can force President Nixon to testify and whether it could indict him.

A spokesman for the special prosecutor's office said Friday Cox has not decided which opinions he feels are correct and probably would not decide unless the prosecutors reach a point in their Watergate investigation where they believe they need Nixon's testimony.

"No public action is contemplated on the legal questions in the near future," said James Doyle, the prosecutor's spokesman.

Ousted White House Counsel

John W. Dean III has testified that he told the President about the Watergate cover-up last September and that Nixon participated in that cover-up.

Nixon on May 22 issued a statement denying that he knew of the cover-up before March 21 of this year.

Cox told a news conference June 18 that he had asked his staff to study the legal questions involved but cautioned "it would be wrong to draw any inference from that."

Doyle said Cox now has received "a set of memoranda reaching divergent conclusions" or indicting or subpoenaing the President.

He declined to say whether any private inquiries had been made to the White House con-

cerning the President's availability.

Sen. Howard H. Baker Jr., R-Tenn., vice chairman of the Senate Watergate committee, appealed Friday to the President to give a sworn account of his meetings with Dean.

In a television interview, Baker also said he does not believe the committee can compel the President to testify.

Gerald L. Warren, White House spokesman, said in San Clemente Thursday that it would be constitutionally inappropriate for the President to respond to a subpoena from the committee.

Warren said that Nixon would not appear voluntarily.

Melvin R. Laird, new presidential adviser for domestic affairs, had said the President would respond to accusations about Watergate at a news conference.

Baker, who said he hoped some way could be found for Nixon to submit a sworn statement, said he thought a news conference would be the worst forum for a presidential response.