

Senators Plan Dean's Immunity

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Washington

The Senate Watergate committee, scheduled to begin hearings tomorrow, moved ahead yesterday with plans to obtain immunity from prosecution for ousted White House counsel John W. Dean III.

The panel took a similar step for a witness who is said to have moved a number of cartons of documents from the White House complex shortly after the Water-

gate break-in last June 17. He was identified as Roy H. Sheppard.

Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr. (Dem-N.C.) who heads the committee, said last week that the Justice Department had refused to waive its right to a 30-day delay in granting immunity for Dean.

The prosecutors in the Watergate investigation have refused to give the former White House official immunity in exchange for grand jury testimony and

are said to believe that such action in the Senate would complicate their case.

But the unanimous committee vote to apply for immunity suggested that the senators consider Dean's testimony important. He can be compelled to talk when the grant is formally made by a federal judge.

His words on Capitol Hill could not then be used against him in court, but evidence collected by the prosecutors independently of his Senate testimony could be used in a proceeding against him. *N.Y. Times Service*