

Nixon May Open Log of Dean Talks

N.Y. Times Service

Washington

In a reversal of position, the White House said yesterday it has left open the possibility that logs of President Nixon's conversations with John W. Dean III about the Watergate case will be made available to investigators.

At a news briefing, Gerald L. Warren, deputy White House press secretary, indicated that the documents might be made available voluntarily even though the White House considers them presidential documents and therefore not subject to subpoena.

Shortly thereafter, however, the chief counsel for the Senate Watergate Committee said the logs would be subpoenaed by today or Monday. Warren had said it would be "constitutionally inappropriate" for the logs showing telephone conversations and meetings with the discharged White House counsel to go to either the federal prosecutors or Senate investigators.

This seemed to raise an immediate conflict with Archibald Cox, the special prosecutor in the case, who said at the same time that he had been assured of ac-

From Page 1

cess to all White House papers bearing on the Watergate matters and "if there is any waffling on it, I intend to make the waffling plain."

PAPERS

At the daily White House news briefing yesterday, Warren said he had a "speech of contrition" on the matter. All that he had been authorized to say, Warren said, "was that Presidential logs of visitors and phone calls are considered to be presidential papers and as such their production cannot be required under subpoena."

"I did not intend to state to you what information would or would not be made available," he said. "This question and the procedures to handle it are under consideration by the President's counsel."

"This is a matter of concern which I am sure the counsel's office will under-

take with Professor Cox."

This statement, however, did not settle the matter as far as the Senate Watergate committee is concerned if the White House persists in considering the logs as presidential papers that "cannot be required under subpoena."

A few hours after Warren spoke, Samuel Dash, chief counsel for the Senate committee, said the committee will "subpoena the White House logs" by today.

Dash said this would be the committee's second subpoena of White House documents. Earlier, he said, the committee had issued an order for "entry slips" showing who went into the Executive Office of the President during a specified period of time and the White House had turned them over.

These apparently had not been considered Presidential papers.

Warren acknowledged on Monday that the President had talked frequently with Dean on the Watergate scandal prior to Dean's dismissal April 30 as White House counsel. Warren's statement yesterday did not alter that.

Dean's forthcoming testimony could be crucial in determining what — if any — President Nixon's role might have been in the White House coverup of the bugging of Democratic headquarters last June 17.

Whatever position the White House may take on the latest attempt to subpoena its records, yesterday's action constitutes another in a long series of retreats on executive privilege.

Before the Watergate disclosures, the White House position was absolute, with Mr. Nixon forbidding his aides or former aides to testify before investigative bodies.

Back Page Col. 1

Not in issue of NYTimes received.