

# Panel to Hear Dean, Mitchell

By Lawrence Meyer  
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Senate select Watergate committee has decided to hold five days of hearings next week, beginning with former White House counsel John W. Dean III on Monday and following with former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, it was announced yesterday.

The decision, made after the committee was informally polled, holds out the prospect of producing the most important testimony the committee has heard since the nationally televised hearings began May 17.

The committee has been criticized, both by its own members and by the Nixon administration, for proceeding too slowly in calling witnesses. After Friday's session, the committee is not scheduled to hold any sessions until at least July 9 because Congress will take a

week-long Fourth of July recess.

Before the committee meets in public session Monday morning, it is scheduled to hold an executive session to discuss several questions, including how many days it will hold hearings after the break, according to a source close to the committee.

The committee originally had intended to begin hearing Dean last Tuesday, but abruptly canceled the hearings Monday so that the hearings would not conflict with President Nixon's summit conference with Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev.

Counting next week, the committee has only 25 possible hearing days left—taking into account the Fourth of July break—before Congress is scheduled to recess Aug. 3 until after Labor Day. The committee still has at least 10 witnesses to be heard.

The committee staff—with some reluctance according

to sources close to it—has recommended that after the Fourth of July break hearings be scheduled Monday through Friday. The staff is reportedly concerned that the five-day-a-week schedule will leave it little time to digest testimony and prepare questions for other witnesses.

By the same token, aides to committee members are concerned that the full schedule will leave the seven senator members almost no time for anything but the Watergate hearings. One aide to a Senator said yesterday, "It looks as though we'll have to absent ourselves from the hearings from time to time."

Committee counsel Samuel Dash said last night that the committee members had been polled and agreed to five days of hearings next week, starting with Dean as a witness and following with Mitchell. Another committee source said the plan is

to have Dean testify for three days and to finish with Mitchell by Friday afternoon.

Dash also said yesterday that White House counsel Leonard Garment had agreed that it was no longer necessary for the White House to have a lawyer present when the staff interviews White House employees.

Dash said that he had held a "very friendly" meeting with Garment and special counsel to the President J. Fred Buzhardt early this week and they agreed that the practice was no longer necessary.

Dash said that the committee originally offered to allow White House lawyers to attend the interviews because the White House had announced its intention to invoke executive privilege in certain areas.

The White House subsequently relaxed its position and announced that execu-

## for 5 Days Next Week

utive privilege would not be invoked concerning any alleged criminal conduct now under investigation.

Having a White House lawyer present for the interviews with White House employees "may inhibit the witness," Dash said, and he told Garment and Buzhardt that there was "no legal reason" for a White House lawyer to be there under the present guidelines.

A White House official confirmed that agreement had been reached that the White House would no longer be contacted before one of its employees is called to testify. If the employee asks to have a White House lawyer present, the official said, one will attend the interview.

Dash declined to comment on news reports that the White House has given questions to the committee to ask Dean when he testifies. Committee chairman Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D-N.C.) said yesterday that he was

not aware of the White House questions.

Ervin added that under the committee's rules "any person who feels his character is impugned before the committee can submit questions to the committee and ask that the statements be challenged."

Sen. Howard H. Baker Jr. (R-Tenn.), the ranking minority member of the committee, said yesterday that the White House has not submitted questions to him and he does not know if other committee members have received any. Baker also said that there would be nothing improper about the White House submitting questions.

In another development, Chief U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica said yesterday that a request by the American Broadcasting Company for permission to televise any subsequent Watergate trials had been rejected during an executive session of

the 15 judges of the United States District Court here.

Sirica said that the court's local rules are "strict and unambiguous" in forbidding cameras, broadcasting or television equipment inside the courthouse in all cases.

In a related matter, Special Watergate Prosecutor Archibald Cox asked U.S. District Judge Joseph Waddy yesterday to permit the Watergate prosecutors to inspect the contribution records from the Nixon reelection campaign for the period from Jan. 1, 1971, until April 7, 1972.

The records now are un-

der seal by Waddy's order while a suit brought by Common Cause against the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President is being litigated. Common Cause is seeking disclosure of those who contributed to the Nixon campaign before April 7, when a new disclosure law became effective. Cox also asked to be allowed to inspect depositions and other documents under seal.

Cox said in his motion that he was requesting access to the records with the consent of the parties to the suit.