

New Watergate Indictments Due

Washington

The long-awaited indictments in the Watergate break in and coverup are expected to be handed down today by a federal grand jury that has investigated the case for more than 20 months.

CBS News said it had learned that as many as 40 persons would be named.

The final roadblock to the indictments was cleared yesterday afternoon when 12 jurors and six alternates were sworn in and sequestered in the New York City perjury and conspiracy trial of former Nixon cabinet members John N. Mitchell and Maurice H. Stans.

Special Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski has said the indictments would come this week, as soon as the Mitchell-Stans might be named in the Washington indictments.

Sources said it was possible the grand jury would name President Nixon as an unindicted co-conspirator in the Watergate case. It was

also reported that rather than name Mr. Nixon, the grand jury would hand up a "presentment" to Chief U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica.

A presentment would likely contain whatever evidence had been found concerning Mr. Nixon's role in Watergate and would probably be ordered sealed by Sirica.

The judge has the discretion to turn such a presentment over to the House Judiciary Committee, which is studying impeachment of the President.

No return is expected in the case of the 18½-minute gap in one of the White House Watergate tapes, also being studied by a grand jury.

To date, legal action has been taken against 31 persons in the Watergate case, including a number of "second-level White House aides who have pleaded guilty to minor charges and cooperated with the grand jury.

None of those in the White

House inner circle, except for Mr. Nixon's former counsel, John W. Dean III, has yet been indicted. Dean pleaded guilty to a single count of conspiracy and is cooperating in the inquiry.

John L. Wilson, Washington lawyer for Mr. Nixon's two closest former aides, H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, said he wouldn't be "surprised" if his clients were indicted.

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