



JUDGE JOHN SIRICA
• Co-conspirator issue

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Sirica Lifts Order on List Citing Nixon

Washington

U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica yesterday lifted the protective order that has kept secret the court papers describing President Nixon as a co-conspirator in the Watergate coverup.

He did so at the request of the President, who had said that news reports of the naming of Mr. Nixon as an unindicted co-conspirator had made further secrecy unnecessary.

The judge's action did not lead to the immediate release of the papers, for they are at the Supreme Court, pending the high court's hearing of the battle between the President and the special Watergate prosecutor over the latest subpoena for tapes.

However, since Sirica was the one who sealed the grand jury papers, his ruling clears the way for their release.

Sirica also announced that a tape recording of one of Mr. Nixon's conversations with his aides is "unquestionably relevant" to the Watergate prosecution's inquiry into possible White House abuse of the Internal Revenue Service.

He said he will turn it over to the prosecution unless the White House appeals.