

JUN 25 1974

Watergate

Immunity

Testimony

Washington *SF Chronicle*

Assistant Attorney General Henry E. Petersen denied yesterday that President Nixon had instructed him not to seek immunity for John W. Dean III.

"I didn't get instructions from the President not to immunize anybody," Petersen told the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Petersen, who was in charge of the Justice Department's original Watergate investigation, said Mr. Nixon had "pointed out certain factors that weighed against" granting immunity to Dean, then the White House counsel, "but I did not feel under any onus from the President on immunity."

Petersen testified at hearings on the nomination of Earl J. Silbert, who directed the early Watergate prosecution, to be U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia.

Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr. (Dem-N.C.), later told reporters he thinks Mr. Nixon acted improperly in discussing immunity with Petersen.

Dean eventually was granted immunity and pleaded guilty to conspiring to obstruct justice.

Associated Press