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Dean, Magruder Given Immunity

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Judge John J. Sirica Tuesday refused to restrict news coverage of the Senate Watergate hearings. Archibald Cox, the special Watergate prosecutor who asked for the restrictions, said he would live with the decision and would not appeal it.

"I regret the outcome, but to press the legal argument further would risk unduly delaying proceedings and divert attention from our essential tasks," Cox said in a statement.

Sirica ruled in connection with a request from the Senate Watergate committee for immunity from prosecution for ousted White House counsel

John W. Dean III and Jeb Stuart Magruder, former deputy director of President Nixon's re-election committee.

Cox had asked that if such immunity were granted so that the two men could testify, it be with the stipulation that they testify behind closed doors or at least without radio and television coverage.

Sirica granted immunity for both men for testimony before the Senate committee, meaning they cannot be prosecuted for anything they say before the committee unless prosecutors can develop the evidence independently.

Sirica said that to rule on the issue of news coverage would

be beyond the scope of the U.S. district court. Had Sirica ruled for Cox, it would have restricted news coverage of any Senate witness who required immunity to testify.

In another ruling, Sirica ordered Dean to testify before a federal grand jury investigating the Watergate affair. Dean apparently resumed negotiations immediately with the Watergate prosecutors over an arrangement under which he would testify.

Meantime, the Senate Watergate committee heard testimony from Maurice H. Stans, former Commerce secretary and former chairman of the Nixon campaign's finance committee. The committee ordered Stans to testify after his attorney pleaded for a delay to avoid "the inevitable klieg light of publicity" that could affect his trial on a New York indictment in connection with a secret donation to the Nixon campaign.

When he began his testimony, Stans read a prepared statement in which he said his job was raising money, not deciding how to spend it, and denied knowledge of any wrongdoing in the 1972 Nixon campaign.

In other Watergate-related developments:

—Deputy White House Press Secretary Gerald L. Warren said Nixon was not spending much time on Watergate-related matters. —E. Howard Hunt, who spent more than seven hours in questioning by Senate Watergate investigators on Monday, returned to the closed-door sessions Tuesday. Magruder also met with the investigators.