

Stans-Nixon Letters Sent to Federal Judge

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Correspondence between President Nixon and former Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans concerning Stans' recommendations for presidential job appointments was turned over yesterday to U.S. District Chief Judge George L. Hart Jr.

The correspondence was among materials subpoenaed by a grand jury that is investigating allegations of bribery and conspiracy in connection with alleged promises of federal jobs to Nixon campaign contributors.

Although the correspondence was turned over to Judge Hart yesterday in response to a grand jury subpoena, the judge said later that he would not begin to examine the correspondence until further legal papers are filed by attorneys for Stans and the Watergate special prosecutor within 10 days.

In addition, the President has said in a letter to Stans' attorneys that he claims to invoke executive privilege

on the correspondence in order to prevent its disclosure to prosecutors.

The additional time given by Hart to attorneys in the case was for the preparation of legal arguments over whether Stans' correspondence with the President when Stans was a Cabinet member fell under any other legal status than when he was a private citizen.

The correspondence was sorted by Stans' attorney into the two classifications: letters written when he was Commerce Secretary and letters written when he was a private citizen. Persons familiar with the documents have said there are approximately 10-15 such pieces of correspondence.

In filing the letters yesterday, Stans' attorneys said once again that the correspondence and additional subpoenaed material turned over to Hart for his inspection last Friday were Stans' personal papers and should not be turned over to the grand jury.