Jury's Recommendation to Sirica

Secret Report Aimed at Hill

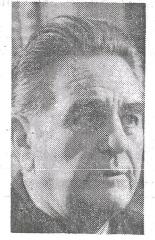
By David S. Broder and George Lardner Jr. Washington Post Staff Writers

The Watergate grand jury has recommended that its secret report about President Nixon be sent to the House Judiciary Committee for its impeachment inquiry, according to informed sources.

The decision is up to U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica, but there was no indication of when he might rule on the issue. The Washington Post reported Saturday that the report expresses the grand jurors' belief that Mr. Nixon was involved in the conspiracy to cover up the Watergate scandal.

Republican Gov. Tom Mc-Call of Oregon called for the President to resign now and. spare the country the anguish dent's responsibility for the al-. The President met with his of an impeachment trial.

tried," McCall said at a Republican conference in Seaside, Ore., "and regardless of ward." the outcome of the trial, both he and the country will lose."



JUDGE JOHN J. SIRICA ... weighing request

leged Watergate "The President is almost Rockefeller said he believed certain to be impeached and that "most people are pleased that the legal and constitutional processes are going for-

In addition to delivering the secret report to Judge Sirica Taking an opposite stand at Friday, the Watergate grand the same GOP conference, two, jury indicted seven of Mr. Nixother speakers, Sen. Bob Pack- on's former White House and wood (R-Ore.) and former New campaign aides for conspiring York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, to block the Watergate investisaid that impeachment, not gation ever since it began on resignation, was the proper June 17, 1972. The defendants course to determine the Presi- include H. R. (Bob) Haldeman,

John D. Ehrlichman and John N. Mitchell, the inner circle of the President's first administration

The grand jury charged that their conspiracy with others "known and unknown" is still going on.

The grand jury did not name the "others" known to it, but knowledgeable lawyers said that Watergate prosecutors will almost certainly have to identify them in response to defense motions that can be expected in the case.

The White House gave no indication of its next step, but the President's lawyers could move into court to keep the secret report-and the bulging briefcase submitted with itfrom going to the Judiciary Committee.

coverup, top aides, chief of staff Alexander M. Haig Jr. and press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler, at the White House yesterday, but then left with Mrs. Nixon to spend the rest of the weekend at Camp David, Md.

The next scheduled step in the unraveling of the Watergate case is the arraignment here next Saturday of the seven new defendants.

In addition to Haldeman, Ehrlichman and Mitchell. those indicted are former

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White House special counsel Charles W. Colson; former White House aide Gordon Strachan; former Assistant Attorney General Robert C. Mardian and Kenneth W. Parkinson, an attorney for the Committee for the Re-Election of the President.

All will enter their pleas be-

fore Sirica, who assigned the has available, but I don't know case to himself under his authority as chief judge of the given to the courts." U. S. District Court here.

Sirica is stepping down as chief judge March 19, when he reaches the mandatory retirement age of 70. It seemed likely that he would rule before then on the grand jury's secret report, which, like the indictment, was submitted to him because of his standing as chief judge.

Watergate grand jurors are expected to be called back into session in about two weeks, but apparently for other work unrelated to the report dealing with Mr. Nixon.

Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski told Sirica Friday that he had "something further" for the grand jury to consider.

On the political front, Mc-Call's statement was by far the most outspoken reaction, as most Republican officeholders and officials confined their public remarks to expressions of confidence in the system of justice.

There apprehension was among GOP officials that the news might create additional most identical language in problems for Republican contenders in two special congressional elections coming up Tuesday in Ohio and California.

But some took solace in the office. thought expressed by Ody Fish, the veteran Wisconsin in Oregon whether he feared a Republican national commit- Democratic "tidal wave," he teeman, who said, "The major- said, "No, I don't. The Ameriity of the people were pretty can people are very sophistimuch expecting this, and I don't know how much more of cated, and they want two a bad effect anything can have strong parties represented in on 115."

tion on his demand for the they'll send him back." President's resignation. "The But, in a Phoeni one last opportunity," he said, speech, Vice President Gerald "is to give up all the informa- R. Ford arned that "a smashtion he has, all the tapes, all ing Democratic victory" in the the memoranda. He must tell, November if he knows, about gaps in mean a "return to the rubber tapes and missing tapes. He stamp Congress that Lyndon must pay taxes representative Johnson controlled in the of his income, regardless of 1960s, when spending the challenged deductions."

"If he is not going to open up," McCall said, "he should Reagan, another potential 1976 resign."

Challenging McCall's views in a telephone interview, are now before the courts, Iowa's Republican Gov. Rob- where innorence and guilt will ert D. Ray said: "I've always be dteermined ... and I am felt the President should dis- confident justice finally will close whatever information he prevail."

what there is that hasn't been

Illinois Democratic chairman John P. Touhy, while predicting a sweep for his party in November that will give it control of both houses of the legislature and the majority of the congressional delegation, said he did not see the indictments as a major political factor in themselves.

"The impact of Watergate had been written off somewhat earlier," Touhy said. "Everyone expected these indictments. People had lost their faith in anything Mr. Nixon said, before this."

But Ray said he thought that "what happens hereafter might change" the President's standing with the public, weak as it already is.

"As people understand the indictments more," Ray said, "there will be more questions . . particularly about the conflict between [John W.] Dean's testimony and [H. R.] Haldeman's. Apparently, the grand jury found some reason to put credence in what Dean said."

Ray and Rockefeller used alsuggesting that voters were "sophisticated" enough not to take out their suspicions of the President on Republican candidates for state and local

can people are very sophisti-Congress. Where they have a McCall put only one condi- good Republican in Congress,

But, in a Phoenix, Ariz. elections could and waste knew no bounds."

California Gov. Ronald Republican candidate, said he was pleased that "the cases