

Description of 3 Jury 'Packages' Held Under Court-Ordered Seal

^{part 3/1/74}
There are three principal "packages" of material now under court seal which the Watergate grand jury has proposed be sent to the House Judiciary Committee. Informed sources described the material as follows:

The Grand Jury's "Report." This two-page document contains the grand jury's recommendation that evidence relating to President Nixon be forwarded to the House panel and includes a vague description of the other material under seal. It is, in effect, a letter of transmittal expressing the grand jury's wishes. It was this document that Judge John J. Sirica opened in court last Friday after it was handed to him by the grand jury foreman.

The office of the Watergate special prosecutor has taken the position that this

document can be made public without prejudicing the rights of the President or any of the Watergate defendants. White House special counsel James D. St. Clair is known to have seen the document and concluded that it is not accusatory of the President, but merely informational.

The Recitation of Evidence. This separate document, said to be about 50 paragraphs long, is a summary of the evidence regarding President Nixon's alleged role in the Watergate cover-up. The summary is known to reflect the grand jury's belief that Mr. Nixon was involved in the conspiracy to obstruct justice. However, the document does not state the grand jury's conclusion regarding

the President's guilt or innocence.

Rather, it is described as a dispassionate recital of facts which, taken together, form the basis of a legal case against the President. The document was contained in a locked briefcase turned over to Sirica last Friday by the office of the special prosecutor.

The Evidence. Also contained in the locked briefcase, this is described as the raw data—documents, memos, testimony and, presumably, some of the White House tapes—which is supportive of the grand jury's summary. The special prosecutor's office has taken the view that this evidence, and the grand jury's summary, should not be released publicly unless so ordered by Sirica or the Judiciary Committee.