

Nixon wants

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawyers for Richard M. Nixon asked Thursday that the former president be excused from testifying at the Watergate cover-up trial.

U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica said he received motions to quash subpoenas issued by Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski and John D. Ehrlichman, one of the five defendants and a member of Nixon's White House high command.

Sirica said he would keep the contents of the motions sealed from press and public until he has had "an opportunity to review them thoroughly."

Nixon, undergoing treatment for a blood clot, is expected to be released from a Long Beach, Calif., hospital by week's end. His personal physician, Dr. John C. Lungren, has said Nixon should not travel for at least three months.

Even before Nixon's lawyers asked Sirica not to require his testimony, Jaworski urged the judge to send his own medical team to California for an independent examination and evaluation.

Doctors only indirectly familiar with Nixon's phlebitis have expressed surprise at the prolonged confinement. Lungren says he plans for his patient.

Meanwhile, Sirica sought to speed up the tedious process of selecting 12 jurors and six alternates for the trial now in its third day.

Sirica is likely to take through the middle of next week in attempting to select an impartial jury, a task made more difficult because of the publicity attending the cover-up case.

The judge took nearly three hours Thursday morning interviewing two potential jurors. One was excused when he acknowledged suffering from hypertension, making it doubtful he would

to be excused

F Post 10-4-74

remain on the jury in a trial expected to last at least three months.

Court officials said Sirica, frustrated by the pace, later began interviewing the prospective jurors in groups of 12, instead of individually.

The judge has yet to inform defense and prosecution lawyers how many potential jurors they will be able to eliminate arbitrarily without any stated cause.

In another development, Sirica ruled out the broadcasting of about 35 White House tapes, which the prosecutors plan

to introduce into evidence. Turning down a request from reporters for the three major television networks, Sirica said allowing the tapes to be broadcast on radio or television news shows would open up questions of why the entire trial could not be electronically recorded and then broadcast.

Under court rules, tape recorders and cameras of all kinds are barred.

Ehrlichman's attorneys subpoenaed Nixon to obtain testimony on the origins of the cover-up itself.