

White House to Supply Nixon-Dean Talk Logs

The White House agreed yesterday to furnish the Senate Watergate committee and federal prosecutors with logs of a series of meetings President Nixon held earlier this year with his former counsel, John W. Dean III.

The agreement, announced by deputy White House press secretary Gerald L. Warren, followed a statement by the Senate committee's chief counsel—which he later denied making—that he intended to serve a subpoena to obtain the logs.

Warren backed down from his position of last Monday that it would be constitutionally inappropriate to make the logs available to the public, the committee or federal investigators.

Warren said the logs would be handed to committee counsel Samuel Dash as soon as they are "compiled and verified" and that they also would be given to special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox if he requested them.

The logs, he said, would confirm that Mr. Nixon and Dean met on "many occasions" during the first few months of the year.

Dean was reported to have told Senate investigators he met with Mr. Nixon 35 or 40 times earlier this year to discuss a Watergate cover-up, but Warren disputed this.

Warren said the President and Dean discussed a variety of matters, including the Watergate inquiry, L. Patrick Gray's confirmation hearings to be FBI director and a White House statement on executive privilege.

Dash and Warren agreed yesterday that the White House had cooperated fully with the Senate committee in making arrangements for transfer of the logs. Warren said the White House "will cooperate as fully as possible within constitutional powers."

Earlier in the day, Dash had indicated the committee would use its subpoena powers only as a last resort, but that this did not seem necessary.

Dash denied he had said a subpoena was being served on the White House, but reporters clearly heard him say late Tuesday that there would be "a subpoena by tomorrow" for the logs. Special Watergate prosecutor Cox also had said he intended to get the papers.

The logs record the times and dates—but not the substance—of a series of telephone calls and meetings Mr. Nixon has had with Dean, whom he fired as White House counsel on April 30.

Interest in the conversations was aroused by reports in the Washington Post and The New York Times that Dean had said he met at

least 35 times with the President during the first four months of the year to discuss a cover-up of the Watergate scandal.

At first, the White House said it would be "constitutionally inappropriate" to release the logs. Then on Tuesday, deputy press secretary Warren said he had misstated the White House position.

Warren said he meant to say earlier that the logs would not be turned over under a subpoena, but that the White House was seeking a way to provide them voluntarily.

Dash said yesterday the committee intended to obtain the logs and was working informally with Leonard Garment, Dean's successor as counsel to the President, to make necessary arrangements.