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Second Watergate Grand Jury Is Called

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WASHINGTON, July 19 — Judge John J. Sirica ordered today that a second Watergate grand jury be empaneled at the request of the special prosecutor, Archibald Cox, whose office indicated that the volume of material ready for presentation was more than the original grand jury could handle.

The second grand jury will be empaneled Aug. 13 and, sources close to the office of Mr. Cox said, will investigate all alleged violations of campaign procedures apart from the break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate complex June 17, 1972.

At the same session in United States District Court today, Judge Sirica also ordered sealed a brown envelope containing alleged evidence developed by the prosecutors against Gordon C. Strachan, former aide to the one-time White House chief of staff, H.R. Haldeman.

Judge Sirica acted so that prosecution of Mr. Strachan would not be jeopardized by allowing the evidence to become "tainted" by Mr. Strachan's public appearance soon before the Senate Watergate committee.

Cox Sends a Letter

At this afternoon's court session, Richard Ben-Veniste, a former Assistant United States Attorney in Manhattan and now one of the Watergate special prosecutors, presented a letter from Mr. Cox that stated, "I believe it would be necessary and in the public interest that a grand jury be empaneled as soon as convenient to investigate possible violations" of five sections of the United States Criminal Code.

The original Watergate grand jury was empaneled last July to investigate the Watergate burglary and bugging. Last Sept. 15 the jury indicted seven persons.

That jury, which is still meeting regularly, was empaneled for 18 months and will continue its formal existence through January, 1974.

The new grand jury will continue its meetings at the same time, but its scope is expected to be substantially wider, covering a variety of illegal campaign practices during the 1972 Presidential campaign.

Sources close to the special Watergate prosecutor's office said that the areas to be covered by the new grand jury



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Judge John J. Sirica

would include violations of Federal campaign financing statutes, conspiracy to defraud the United States Government, campaign contributions by corporations, extortion by Federal officials and obstruction of justice.

The area of corporate campaign contributions and extortion is expected to include a broad variety of corporate contributions to the Nixon reelection campaign, including one of \$55,000 that American Airlines disclosed July 6 and "a lot of others."

A Separate Jurisdiction

In his letter to Judge Sirica, Mr. Cox said, "This would be a new grand jury for the use of the Watergate special prosecution force under my direction."

Sources close to the investigation noted also that the old Watergate grand jury had been empaneled by the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, a direct affiliate of the Department of Justice, while Mr. Cox's special force is an office separate from that of the United States Attorney and maintains offices outside of the Department of Justice building.

Police Corruption Case

The old Watergate grand jury, according to sources in the office of the United States Attorney here, was also used to prosecute a local District of Columbia case of police corruption and further evidence in that case may also be present-

ed, though not by Mr. Cox's office.

The sources indicated that it was likely that Mr. Cox wanted to empanel his own grand jury with which he could begin afresh in new areas of evidence in which his prosecution staff has been working.

The other action ordered by Judge Sirica — the sealing of evidence accumulated against Mr. Strachan — was apparently a first step toward prosecution of Mr. Strachan, who is expected to be the next witness before the Senate Watergate committee. Judge Sirica ordered the sealed evidence placed in a safe.

James F. Neal, another Cox assistant, said in his oral argument before Judge Sirica that "this is the same procedure" used for the public testimony of John W. Dean 3d, the former counsel to President Nixon.

Both Mr. Dean and Mr. Strachan have been granted limited immunity from prosecution. Under this provision, none of the evidence that the two present to the Senate Watergate committee may be used in their criminal prosecution. It can be proved that the evidence was developed independently from their Senate testimony. Therefore, in both cases, Mr. Cox's office has taken the precaution of sealing this evidence before the two testified.