

Sirica Gives Prosecutor Rest of Watergate Tapes

Associated Press

U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica turned over to the special prosecutor yesterday the remaining Watergate-related portions of the subpoenaed White House tapes and documents.

Earlier this week Sirica had upheld White House requests to withhold non-Watergate material from the grand jury.

Turned over to the prosecutor's office were two brief segments, totaling less than five minutes, from the tape of a June 30, 1972, luncheon meeting involving President Nixon, former aide H. R. Haldeman and former Attorney General John N. Mitchell.

Originally, the White House had requested that the entire conversation be withheld but later agreed to turn over the brief segments during which Watergate was discussed.

Also received by the prosecutor was a 33-minute and 9-second portion of a Sept. 15, 1972, meeting involving the President, Haldeman and former White House counsel John W. Dean III.

The White House made no request to withhold that segment during which it said the conversation dealt almost entirely with Watergate.

Sirica also gave the prosecutors verbatim transcripts of two recordings of personal recollections dictated by Mr. Nixon.

One was a Dictabelt of the President's recollections of a telephone conversation with Mitchell on June 20, 1972. That conversation, subpoenaed by the special prosecutor, was not on a telephone included in the White House taping system.

The other was a cassette tape dictated by the President of his recollection of conversations on March 21, 1973, with Dean.

Sirica retained all of the originals, copies were made and given to the prosecutors.

Three weeks ago, Sirica turned over to the prosecutors tapes of four presidential meetings last March on which the White House made no claims to withhold portions.