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Nixon Aides

'Invited'

To Testify

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In a direct challenge to President Nixon, the Senate Judiciary Committee voted unanimously yesterday to ask White House counsel John W. Dean III to testify on his relation to the FBI's investigation of the Watergate affair.

In the intensifying controversy over L. Patrick Gray III's handling of the inquiry as acting FBI director, the committee also invited to appear "at their earliest convenience:"

- Judith Hoback of West Palm Beach, Fla., a former employee of the Nixon re-election campaign committee who said in an affidavit that committee officials summoned her to explain her private interview with FBI agents within 48 hours after it was held.

- Thomas Bishop, a former assistant FBI director who transmitted to FBI agents nationwide a White House request for political information to help the president's campaign.

- Thomas Lumbard, a former treasury and justice department attorney and Nixon campaign volunteer who is reported to have had close ties with G. Gordon Liddy, one of seven men convicted in the Watergate conspiracy.

INQUIRY

The President has declared he will not permit Dean, who conducted the internal White House inquiry

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into the Watergate affair, to testify.

The judiciary committee's request falls short of the authority of a subpoena, and committee members declined to say yesterday what steps they would take if the White House continued to refuse to make Dean available.

Senator John V. Tunney (Dem-Calif.), who offered the motion approved yesterday, said he believes it is "quite probable" that the committee would vote to confirm Gray in the absence of testimony by Dean on several points raised in the previous two weeks of hearings on the nomination.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (Dem-Mass.), added that he is "hopeful" that Mr. Nixon, despite his previous statements, will "see the importance of permitting Dean to attend.

"I think Mr. Gray's entitled to it," Kennedy said. "Mr. Gray has been responsive, but now it's for Mr. Dean to respond on a number of areas that have been unresolved."

Tunney and Kennedy have led committee Democrats in accusing Gray of being too closely associated with the White House and the Republican Party.

Before the committee

made its decision at a closed meeting, Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield suggested that it might want to shelve Gray's nomination until a special Senate committee completes its own Watergate investigation by early next year.

If the judiciary committee follows Mansfield's suggestion, Gray's status would be kept in limbo at least until next February. That is the deadline for the select Senate committee headed by Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr. (Dem-N.C.), to report its findings on charges of political espionage and sabotage in the 1972 election campaign.