

Anderson Won't Print More Jury Excerpts

By JOHN M. CREWDSON

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WASHINGTON, April 25—Jack Anderson, the syndicated columnist, said today that he had agreed to a request by Federal prosecutors to stop publishing excerpts from secret testimony taken by the grand jury investigating the Watergate bugging case.

Mr. Anderson said that after meeting today with Harold H. Titus, the United States attorney here, and three of Mr. Titus's assistants, he had also promised to return to the court transcripts of the testimony that he had received from an undisclosed source.

He made the decision voluntarily, he said after learning of "a couple of anonymous phone calls" that Mr. Titus's office had received from potential witnesses who refused to testify in the case for fear that their remarks would be leaked to Mr. Anderson.

The columnist requested the meeting, he said, because of concern expressed over the leaks by John J. Sirica, the chief judge of the Federal District Court here, for whom he said he had "great respect."

'No Intimidation'

"There was no intimidation, no threats, no coercion of any kind" from Mr. Titus or his staff, Mr. Anderson said in a telephone interview following the meeting there had been, "I'd have walked out and handed the transcripts to everybody."

Justice Department officials became concerned last week when Mr. Anderson first began to pepper his newspaper Column with verbatim excerpts from testimony given by a number of grand jury witnesses, including Dwight L. Chapin, the former White House appointments secretary, and James W. McCord Jr., one of the convicted Watergate wiretappers.

That concern grew as the reports continued, and on Monday, all 15 judges of the Federal District Court here met and ordered Mr. Titus to make a thorough investigation aimed at stopping the leaks.

The Washington Post reported today that some Justice Department officials were suggesting that the documents might be coming from members of Mr. Titus's staff, but Mr. Anderson said that was not the case.

His source, he said, was "not a court reporter, not an officer of the court, not a prosecutor—he was none of those things."

He refused to give any further identification, except to say that "my source told me

that he had high connections in the Nixon Administration."

Mr. Anderson declared that, in printing portions of the testimony, "I still believe that what I was doing was right—I don't apologize for it."

The Government's investigation of the bugging of the Democrats' offices last summer, he asserted, was "less than full." But previously, he added, "I've read the transcripts, and I don't see that now."

Still, he said, he had made it clear to Mr. Titus and the others that "I would continue to dig for leaks from the grand jury—just not publish any more verbatim transcripts."

In a statement issued today, Arthur R. Sampson, the acting administrator for the General Administration, said that 1,500 cubic feet of documents had been received by the National Archives in shipments on Feb. 5 and April 19. The material was said to be enough to fill 75 legal-size four-drawer filing cabinets.

For Nixon Library

Mr. Sampson said the records had been turned over by the Committee for the Re-election of the President and were for eventual transfer to a Nixon library similar to those set up by other Presidents.

The records had been subpoenaed by common cause, he said, and added that the subpoena would be honored.

In a letter to Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., the North Carolina Democrat who is chairman of the Senate's select Watergate investigating committee, Mr. Murphy said he had learned of the attempted purchase of weapons by Liddy, at the time a White House staff member, while gathering evidence to support a bill outlawing the sale of "Saturday night specials," or cheap handguns.

Mr. Murphy said that Liddy tried to make the purchase about a year ago from a Washington-area gun dealer, and "allegedly used his White House credentials to identify himself."

But the dealer reportedly became "suspicious over Liddy's appearance and . . . erratic behavior," the letter said.

Mr. Murphy said he was passing the information on to Senator Ervin "inasmuch as the consummation of the sale of weapons could have had a dramatic bearing on the Watergate affair with much more disastrous results in terms of dangers to human life."