

Nixon-Dean Logs Still in White House

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Special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox is on the verge of putting new pressure on the White House to turn over documents on President Nixon's meetings with former White House counsel John W. Dean III and on other matters, it was learned yesterday.

Detailed requests for the documents were first presented by Cox June 6 at a meeting attended by assistant special prosecutor James Vorenberg and White House lawyers Leonard Garment and Fred J. Buzhardt.

The requests were formalized, as had been agreed upon, in a letter by Cox on June 11, but Vorenberg said there has been no response.

Vorenberg, who discussed the White House delay in turning over the documents during a news conference yesterday, side-stepped questions about seeking a subpoena, but said, "We are absolutely determined to get the information we need to pursue Mr. Cox's responsibilities."

"They're trying to lean over backwards, to be reasonable," a source close to the prosecutor's staff said, "but if the stuff doesn't come pretty soon, there's going to be some heat put on."

A White House spokesman, asked about the delay, said, "The special prosecutor will receive a response

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as soon as counsel for the President have an opportunity to act on them," suggesting that only the press of other work had slowed response to the request.

The documents recording times and places of meetings and telephone conversations between Mr. Nixon and

Dean — though not the substance of what was said — have been tangled in controversy since early June.

And the growing impatience of Cox's staff to see them appears to underline the importance of Dean's coming testimony before the Senate Select Committee, expected Tuesday.

The logs are considered important because they will document the extent of conversations between Mr. Nixon and Dean during a period in which the former counsel says he frequently discussed the Watergate coverup with the President.

STATEMENTS

On June 4, White House assistant press secretary Gerald Warren acknowledged that Dean and Mr. Nixon had talked repeatedly during the period but denied the President had been involved in a coverup and said the logs would not be released, on constitutional grounds.

The next day, after sharp protests from Watergate investigators, Warren partially back-tracked. He said the logs were presidential papers and not subject to subpoena, but left open the possibility that they would be made available voluntarily.

Vorenberg was asked at his news conference whether he was concerned about the physical safety of the documents at the White House. "We have received assurances with respect to safeguarding those documents," he said.

INQUIRY

Discussing other aspects of the special prosecutor's activities, Vorenberg said the gradually increasing staff has begun exploring "major new lines of inquiry." He would not give de-

tails.

Task forces had already been put to work on the activities of accused political saboteur Donald Segretti, on the White House "plumbers," the ITT case, financial contributions to the Nixon campaign, the Ellsberg break-in, and the Vesco case, he said, as well as the federal grand jury investigation.

"We are going to start with the assumption that, in the beginning at least, we will look into everything," Vorenberg said.

"We strongly urge people in the country who have information they think may bear on the Watergate or other related matters to come forward," he said.