

Watergate Indictments Proposed

A "status report" written by the original Watergate prosecutors recommends the indictment of four former top administration officials on charges of obstructing justice in the Watergate affair, CBS News reported last night.

Quoting unidentified Justice Department sources, CBS News said the report, sent to special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox, recommends the indictment of former White House chief of staff H. R. (Bob) Haldeman, former presidential adviser John D. Ehrlichman, former Attorney General and Nixon campaign director John N. Mitchell and former presidential counsel John W. Dean III.

The report also recommends that several other persons be allowed to plead guilty to reduce charges in return for cooperation, CBS said. Those persons, CBS reported, are "believed to include former FBI acting director L. Patrick Gray III and former (Haldeman) aide Gordon Strachan."

The network also reported that Herbert W. Kalmbach, who until May was President Nixon's personal lawyer, will be granted complete immunity in exchange for his testimony. Kalmbach, according to testimony before the Senate Watergate committee, raised the money later allegedly used to buy the silence of the original Watergate defendants.

The report was written by principal assistant U.S. attorney Earl J. Silbert, and assistant U.S. attorneys Seymour Glanzer and Donald E. Campbell when they stepped out of the Watergate case last week. It is not binding on Cox, who has said he will review all aspects of the case before making any decision. The report, according to CBS, describes the investigation as 85 per cent complete.

Glanzer refused to comment when asked about the CBS report last night. He said he did not want to be put in the position of having to say he had talked with a newsmen if asked by Cox about the CBS report.

Silbert and Campbell could not be reached for comment.

According to CBS, the evidence against Mitchell, Dean, Haldeman and Ehrlichman is described by the Justice Department sources as "documentary as well as verbal."

In testimony last week before the Senate select Watergate committee, former presidential counsel Dean testified that he held a series of meetings with Haldeman, Ehrlichman and Mitchell to discuss the payment of money to the Watergate defendants.

Dean also testified that Mitchell and Haldeman had received information from the wiretaps at Democratic National headquarters at the Watergate. Dean testified that Strachan told him that he passed the wiretap information to Haldeman.

Gray, as acting director of the FBI, was one of the key figures in the original investigation of the Watergate burglary and bugging.