

Watergate Probe Said Incomplete

Special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox denied yesterday that his investigation is nearly complete, and said it would be both unethical and "grossly premature" for him to speculate about possible indictments.

Cox was responding to a report broadcast Wednesday by CBS that the government's three original prosecutors, in a "status report" given him when he took over their investigation, had recommended the indictment of four former high-ranking Nixon administration officials.

The three prosecutors, assistant U.S. attorneys Earl J. Silbert, Seymour Glanzer and Donald E. Campbell, had described the investigation as 85 per cent complete, CBS said. This Cox flatly denied.

He would not confirm or deny that the Silbert-Glanzer-Campbell report recommended indictments, but said it would be "irresponsible and unprofessional" for him to make any comment on the progress of the investigation.

Leakage of such reports represented a "gross breach of professional ethics," he said, and if he found a member of his staff was responsible for the leak the staff member would be fired immediately.

CBS said the report by the outgoing prosecutors recommended the indictment for conspiracy of former Attorney General and Nixon campaign director John N. Mitchell, former staff aides H. R. (Bob) Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, and former counsel to the President John W. Dean III.

In other Watergate developments yesterday, a New York Daily News report that former Nixon campaign worker Herbert L. Porter was ready to plead guilty to a charge of obstructing justice in the case was denied by Porter's attorney.

Meanwhile, former White House aide David Young was granted limited immunity from prosecution for testimony he may give before the Senate select Watergate committee.

U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica granted the immunity at the request of the Senate committee, which expects to hear from Young later in the summer. The judge's ruling means that Young will be immune from prosecution based upon his testimony, though evidence gathered independently may still be used against him.