SFChronicle Unedited Tapes

Cox Takes Case To Appeals Court

Washington

Archibald Cox, the Justice Department's special Watergate prosecutor, asked the U.S. Court of Appeals yesterday to or-

der President Nixon to deliver White House tape recordings directly to the Watergate grand jury, without any prior judicial screening.

SEP 8

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Cox asked the court to set aside that portion of Judge John J. Sirica's ruling of last week that would permit the judge to examine the tapes in private and delete some "privileged" material before passing them on to the grand jury.

The special prosecutor also asked the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia to est a blish what standards Sirica should use in screening the White House tapes if the court decides it is proper for him to do so.

POWER

Sirica's decision was appealed to the same court Thursday by President Nixon, whose attorneys contended that the judge has no power to compel the President to make his private records available.

Both appeals will be argued Tuesday before the full nine-judge court, which is expected to decide the case within a week or ten days, clearing the way for a final appeal to the Supreme Court.

PETITION

[•] In his petition, Cox said "the core" of Sirica's ruling is "entirely correct" but that some parts of the order and accompanying opinion "may create unnecessary confusion and resulting delay" if they are not corrected on appeal.

The correct action, the prosecutor said, is "the overruling of the claims of presidential immunity and absolute prerogative to withhold evidence."

New York Times