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ABA Seeks Watergate Data

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Oct. 5 (AP)—The American Bar Association has asked the Senate Watergate committee for a computer hookup so the group can gather any evidence concerning lawyers involved in the scandal.

ABA President Chesterfield Smith said any evidence the association's computer could glean from the committee's data banks might be used for disbarment proceedings.

"We want to purge from our profession any crooks who are unworthy of our high profession," Smith said at a news conference on Thursday. He was here to address the Cincinnati Bar Association.

The 56-year-old Smith, of Lakeland, Fla., said he is awaiting word from committee counsel Samuel Dash on the request.

Smith said Dash estimated the cost of the hookup at \$30,000. A complete transcript would cost \$95,000, Smith said he was told.

He said any information obtained through the hookup would be distributed to the state bar association involved. "There is a great chance that many lawyers involved with Watergate will not be convicted," Smith said, explaining pre-trial proceedings have been "so prejudicial, and you're

not going to be able to impanel a jury.

Smith said, however, bar association proceedings put the burden of proof on the accused lawyers, the opposite of criminal proceedings in the courts. "We could still disbar them," he said.