

Cox Details Data Kept From Him

Disputes Haig

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Ousted Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox yesterday disclosed a lengthy new list of documents that the White House has been holding back despite its public claims of cooperation with his investigations.

He predicted that it would take "a very large number of subpoenas" to secure the records and other crucial evidence for the inquiries he had undertaken before President Nixon fired him.

Testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee which thought it had hammered out a sufficiently independent charter for him just five months ago, Cox said he now favored legislation providing for appointment of a successor by the federal courts.

He said "total independence" from the Nixon administration was vital and, his own experience had shown, "cannot be had with someone answering to the Attorney General and the President."

Cox reiterated his charges of "frustration and delay" by the White House in meeting his requests for evidence and took sharp issue

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with White House chief of staff Alexander M. Haig Jr. who disputed his complaints in a television interview Sunday on CBS's "Face the Nation."

"It seems to me our efforts were very unsuccessful," Cox said. As a result, he protested, for him to have bowed to Mr. Nixon's demands that he stop using the courts in his attempts to obtain tapes, notes and other records of presidential conversations at issue in his investigations would have smacked "of almost a cover-up."

Tickling off documents that he and his Watergate special prosecution force were still trying to obtain when he was dismissed Oct. 20, Cox said some of the requests had been bottled up at the White House for almost two months.

For example, he said he had asked on Aug. 23 for:

- All records and logs of telephone calls made by former White House aides John D. Ehrlichman, David Young, Egil Krogh Jr., Charles W. Colson, G. Gordon Liddy and E. Howard Hunt between June 19, 1971, and Dec. 13, 1971, in connection with the secret activities of the White House "plumbers" in investigating news leaks of sensitive information.

- Logs of any meetings between them and the President during the same period.

- All records involving the "plumbers" investigations of the Pentagon Papers case and two other assignments cryptically labeled "Special Project No. M1" and "Project Odessa."

- Records removed from Krogh's files at the Department of Transportation and placed in the President's files between Dec. 31, 1972, and May 31, 1973. After leaving the White House staff, Krogh served as under secretary of transportation until he resigned because of his role in the White House-sponsored break-in at the offices of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist over the 1971 Labor Day weekend.

"Presidential files have a way of expanding," Cox said wryly.

Mr. Nixon's White House lawyers, Cox told the senators, even blocked the release of White House documents bearing on a controversial 1971 increase in milk price supports although those same documents had already been turned over to the Justice Department's civil division.

The civil division is defending the administration in a lawsuit brought by consumer groups who have charged that the higher price supports were a payoff for \$427,500 in campaign contributions by the dairy farm industry to Mr. Nixon's re-election effort.

Cox said he mentioned the records involving the milk producers several months ago to then-Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson, who was forced to resign Oct. 20 when refused to fire Cox.

"I said that if the civil division can see them, I don't

see why I can't," Cox recalled telling Richardson. "He agreed, then stopped and said, 'Well, I'd better tell the President's counsel.'"

"When he did tell them," Cox reported, "he was forbidden to turn it (the milk producers' file) over."

Cox said the White House had also failed to turn over any records involving a \$5,000 loan which Colson had requested of Washington public relations man William Baroody for unspecified reasons in late August of 1971. The money, it was recently learned, was used to finance the Ellsberg break-in. Baroody was repaid shortly afterwards by \$5,000 from the dairy industry's contributions.

Still other requests have been sitting around for weeks, Cox said. He said his office had asked on Aug. 27 for all White House records involving columnist Joseph Kraft and the reported bugging of Kraft's phone by White House operatives, but has yet to get them.

In addition, Cox reported, his prosecutors were still waiting for memos written by Ehrlichman between March 23 and March 27, 1973; any records that Young transmitted to Ehrlichman last April 30, and documents that had been dropped into "presidential files" regarding Ehrlichman Young and Colson. Finally, the former prosecutor said that he had also been waiting in vain for tapes and memoranda of other presidential conversations besides Mr. Nixon's nine talks with his aides about the Watergate scandal.

Cox said he had not pressed these requests while the Watergate tapes case was pending in the courts.

"Now that that question has been adjudicated," he told the committee, "I would expect the (Watergate prosecution) office would take out a very large number of requests and a very large number of subpoenas."

In seeking the documents, Cox emphasized that he did not mean to suggest that all are "necessarily evil" or incriminating. In fact, he said, some might help exonerate various individuals now under suspicion.

Speaking with newsmen after the hearing, Cox said Haig "was certainly inaccurate" in claiming that the White House had been cooperative. "I assume he was misinformed," Cox said. Even Howard Hunt's White House pass, he disclosed to the committee, was obtained only with the aid of a subpoena.

In connection with the

"expanding" volume of Mr. Nixon's presidential files, Cox reported that a member of the White House staff, whom he identified only as "X," came into his office to report that he could expect his files to be subpoenaed

along with those of another White House aide because of the second aide's testimony before the Senate Watergate committee.

"X consulted with (White House special counsel J. Fred) Buzhardt," Cox testified, "and it was agreed that all of X's relevant files should be put in the President's files."

The ousted prosecutor said he thought it crucial to create an independent office of special prosecutor by statute. Cox said he had had serious reservations about the constitutionality of proposals requiring the U.S. District Court here to appoint a successor, which he voiced in a television interview Sunday, but since then, he said that talks with other lawyers and study of some case law had changed his mind.

"It may be argued that this takes away powers from the executive," Cox said, "but I don't think the lines are that hard and fast."

"There is certainly nothing incongruous in having the court appoint lawyers to advise grand juries and prosecute" cases involving high administration officials, Cox said. "It's certainly far more incongruous to expect people to investigate themselves."

Eight of the 16 members of the Judiciary Committee have joined in sponsoring a bill that would leave appointment of a new prosecutor to Chief U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica. Sen. John L. McClellan (D-Ark.) indicated that he might make it a majority if a provision were added requiring Senate confirmation.