

# Lawyers for Nixon, Panel Discuss Meeting Request

By Lawrence Meyer

Washington Post Staff Writer

Senate select Watergate committee lawyers met Thursday with White House attorneys but received no immediate response to a request that President Nixon meet with the committee to discuss the Watergate affair, informed sources said yesterday.

Chief committee counsel Samuel Dash and minority counsel Fred D. Thompson met with White House counsel Leonard Garment and White House special counsel J. Fred Buzhardt as the committee renewed its effort to question President Nixon about his role in Watergate.

According to informed sources, Buzhardt told the committee lawyers during the 45-minute meeting that he would take the matter up with Mr. Nixon and communicate with them next week.

Acting on a suggestion Sen. Lowell P. Weicker Jr. (R-Conn.), made Tuesday, the committee instructed its lawyers to sound out the White House about the possibility of meeting with Mr. Nixon.

Weicker proposed that the committee interview Mr. Nixon, who would not be under oath, at the White House with a full transcript made of the session. Under Weicker's proposal, the transcript would be released after the session. Committee

chairman Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D-N.C.) said, however, that the committee would meet with President Nixon "anywhere." Presidential press secretary Ronald Ziegler said at a White House press briefing yesterday that, "The President has not made any decision as to how he will proceed." Ziegler said, "I do not foresee the President going to the Hill and meeting with the committee." Ziegler added that it would be an "incorrect conclusion to draw" that a specific request was made by the committee's lawyers and rejected by the White House attorneys.

According to one source, several possible ways of conducting the interview were discussed with the White House lawyers, but no details were provided.

In a related matter, the Senate approved a bill yesterday that would remove a procedural obstacle to the committee's suit seeking tape recording of five Presidential conversations.

The committee's first attempt to enforce a subpoena served on President Nixon failed when Chief U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica ruled that he had no jurisdiction to hear the complaint.

The legislation approved by the Senate would give the District Court here authority to rule on suits brought by the Senate select Watergate committee to en-

force its subpoenas against all persons, including the President.

The committee originally had proposed legislation that would give the District Court here jurisdiction over similar suits filed by any congressional committee. The legislation approved yesterday, however, was a compromise version. The bill now goes to the House.

The committee also released yesterday a list of eight witnesses whom it will question during its hearings next week. The witnesses:

Robert E. Bartlome, secretary of the American Shipbuilding Company; Matthew E. Clark, director of purchasing of American Shipbuilding; Orin E. Atkins, president and chairman of the finance committee of the Ashland Oil Company; Wilbur M. Bennett, director of civic affairs, Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Corp.; Russell DeYoung, chairman of the Board, Goodyear Tire and Rubber Corp.; Harding L. Lawrence, chairman and chief executive officer, Braniff Airways, Inc.; George A. Spater, former president and board chairman, American Airlines, and Claude C. Wild Jr., vice president for government affairs, Gulf Oil Corp.

The committee, which resumes its hearings Tuesday at 10 a.m., is expected to question these witnesses concerning campaign contributions made during the 1972 presidential election.