

Ohio Lawyer Added To White House Staff

President Nixon has named John J. Chester, a Columbus, Ohio, lawyer, as a White House special counsel, bringing to 13 the number of attorneys working full time on the President's Watergate defense.

Chester, a three-term Re-

publican member of Ohio's general assembly from 1952 to 1956 and a long-time friend of Attorney General William B. Saxbe, will work under chief White House Watergate counsel James D. St. Clair. Chester's salary is \$40,000 a year.

A White House source said Chester was recommended to Mr. Nixon by Saxbe, once attorney general of Ohio. Chester is a trial lawyer and a senior partner in the Columbus firm of Chester, Hoffman, Park, Willcox and Rose. Earlier this year he had been considered by Saxbe for the position of deputy attorney general.

Chester said he understood that his duties will primarily deal with preparing for the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment inquiry, and participating in the general preparation of Mr. Nixon's Watergate defense.

Chester said he was not hired for Watergate-related courtroom work, which is being handled by St. Clair.

"All I know about it (Watergate) is what I've read in the Columbus papers. Mainly, I'm trying to get caught up with what's been going on," Chester said.

Chester, 53, received a bachelor's degree in 1942 from Amherst College and a law degree in 1948 from Yale University. He served in the Navy during World War II.