

SIRICA'S DECISION ON JURY'S REPORT COULD COME TODAY

Findings of Nixon's Alleged Tie to Watergate May Be Given to House Panel

Chief Judge John J. Sirica of the United States District Court is expected to decide this week, possibly tomorrow, what to do with a sealed report handed down to him on Friday by one of the Watergate grand juries, well-placed sources said today.

The 50-page report is said to outline the grand jury's conclusion that President Nixon was involved in a conspiracy to cover up the Watergate bugging. It was accompanied by a recommendation that the jury's findings, and the evidence supporting them, be turned over to the House Judiciary Committee, which is considering Presidential impeachment.

Courses for Judge

A source close to the prosecution reported that Leon Jaworski, the special prosecutor, expected a ruling from Judge Sirica tomorrow. The judge can order the report resealed or can send all or part of it to the committee; he can also decide whether to order that the report be released publicly.

D. Todd Christofferson, the judge's law clerk, said that no official proceedings had been scheduled for tomorrow. He added that he did not expect any, but that "in Watergate nothing can be ruled out."

Judge Sirica, after glancing briefly at the report, had it locked in a safe in his chambers. He reportedly left Washington for the weekend without studying the document.

Mr. Nixon spent Sunday at his mountaintop retreat at Camp David, Md., and there was no indication that he had conferred with his lawyers,

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either in person or by phone. He returned to White House tonight.

But other White House officials said that lawyers studying the possibility of filing a formal motion before Judge Sirica in an effort to block the release of the grand jury report, on the ground that it may contain conclusions prejudicial to Mr. Nixon's constitutional rights and privileges.

The officials said this course of action was "probable," and insisted that no final decision had been reached.

If the White House moves to suppress the report, the grand jury Committee, which heretofore has been reluctant to involve itself in court proceedings, would have to decide whether to authorize its

counsel, John M. Doar, to challenge Mr. Nixon's lawyers in court. The committee, which needs the brief case of supporting evidence that accompanies the report, is scheduled to meet on Tuesday morning for a hearing on the situation from its members.

Other Watergate-related developments included the following:

¶ Vice President Ford said in an interview that he had "reason to believe" that Mr. Nixon would cooperate with the Judiciary Committee in providing documents for its impeachment inquiry as long as its requirements were reasonable.

¶ John D. Ehrlichman, one of the seven Presidential aides indicted on Friday, said in Seattle that he was "not surprised" at the grand jury's

action. At the same time, it disclosed that five of his friends had started a campaign to raise \$150,000 for his legal defense. ¶ Appearing on the National Broadcasting Company's television program, "Meet the Press," Senator Robert C. Byrd of Virginia, the Democratic vice president, said the grand jury's action posed "serious implications for the Presidency by bringing the Watergate cover-up 'to the Oval Office' for the first time.

Mr. Ford, who was interviewed by United Press International, said that he hoped the Judiciary Committee would not follow the example set by the Senate Watergate committee in demanding hundreds of documents.

"That was a fishing expedition," the Vice President said. "I don't think the President should just turn the latchkey

on the White House and say come in here and ransack the files."

In addition to Judge Sirica's ruling on the secret report, this week is also expected to produce more Watergate indictments, probably concentrating on the activities of the "plumbers," the White House squad set up to stanch the leaks of classified information.