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**HEARING BY SIRICA
ON JURY'S REPORT
IS SET TOMORROW**

Session to Hear Arguments
by 'All Interested Counsel'
on Document's Disposition

JUDGE SEES LAWYERS

Action Taken After Meeting
Asked by Nixon Attorney
—House Panel Notified

By ANTHONY RIPLEY

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 4—

Chief Judge John J. Sirica today set a hearing for Wednesday to hear arguments "by all interested counsel" on what is to be done with a sealed grand jury report believed to bear on President Nixon's possible role in the Watergate cover-up.

Judge Sirica acted after a meeting at 2 P.M. in his chambers in United States District Court. Lawyers representing the President, the special Watergate prosecutor and one of the defendants in the cover-up indictment returned last Friday by the same grand jury were present.

The judge's law clerk, D. Todd Christofferson, said this afternoon's meeting in chambers had been requested by James D. St. Clair, Mr. Nixon's lawyer.

Key Republicans Comment

Meanwhile, senior Republicans on the House Judiciary Committee, which is conducting an impeachment inquiry, said that the President could be impeached if there was evidence that he had played a central role in a conspiracy to obstruct the Watergate inquiry. They noted, however, that they were speaking in the abstract, not knowing what was in the grand jury report. [Details on Page 23.]

Late today Judge Sirica's office issued the following statement:

"The Court has set Wednesday, March 6, at 10 A.M., for an open court hearing at which all interested counsel may state their views regarding the disposition of the report and recommendation filed last Friday

by the June, 1972, grand jury."

Argue 'Law' Involved

Mr. Christofferson said "interested counsel" to be notified are lawyers for the seven men indicted last Friday, lawyers for the House Judiciary Committee and those at today's meeting.

Only Judge Sirica, the grand jury that drew it up and the office of the special prosecutor, Leon Jaworski, have seen the contents of the report, Mr. Christofferson said.

Asked how "interested counsel" might be able to argue for their clients without knowing what the report contained,

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he replied only that they could argue "the law" involved.

The role of Mr. St. Clair and the notification of the House committee were the first confirmation, aside from unidentified sources, that the sealed report bore directly on Mr. Nixon's possible role in the cover-up.

It was also the first formal indication that the grand jury may have had the House impeachment investigation in mind when it submitted its sealed report to Judge Sirica last Friday. Along with the report, Richard Ben-Veniste, assistant special prosecutor, handed the Court a bulging olive-brown briefcase of supporting documents.

The potential impact of this grand jury report has been enormous on Capitol Hill. And the possibility of impeachment might turn on the contents of the sealed report and the briefcase.

Gerald L. Warren, the President's deputy press secretary, said that although Mr. St. Clair had requested today's meeting with Judge Sirica, he had not requested the open hearing in court.

Declines Comment on Hearing

He declined to comment on the hearing, saying the President's position would be made known in court on Wednesday.

The Judiciary Committee had made no formal request for the sealed report that accompanied the conspiracy indictment on Friday. It is scheduled to meet for a closed briefing by its two top lawyers at 10 A.M. tomorrow.

At that time, the committee is expected to decide what position to take at the Wednesday hearing.

Today's meeting at the judge's office in the Federal Courthouse was attended by Mr. St. Clair, his assistant, Richard Hauser; Mr. Ben-Veniste; Henry D. Ruth, deputy special prosecutor, and Philip A. Lacovara, counsel to the special prosecutor.

Defendants' Lawyer Present

John J. Wilson, lawyer for

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H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, two former top staff men at the White House, joined the meeting later, Mr. Christofferson said.

Last Friday's indictment included 24 counts against seven individuals. Aside from Mr. Haldeman and Mr. Ehrlichman, others named were John N. Mitchell, The former Attorney General; Charles W. Colson, former special counsel to the President; Kenneth Wells Parkinson, attorney for the Committee for the Re-election of the President; Robert G. Mar-dian, former aide to Mr. Mitchell, and Gordon C. Strachan, former aide to Mr. Haldeman.

Two of the findings in the long indictment seemed to bear on possible Presidential connection, though his name was not mentioned except in passing in the entire document.

One of these was a series of alleged "overt acts" that seemed to trace a path between a meeting March 21, 1973, in the President's Oval Office to the payment of \$75,000 later the same day to E. Howard Hunt Jr., one of the seven men originally convicted last year in the burglary of democratic national headquarters at the Watergate complex here on June 17, 1972.

The second charged Mr. Haldeman with lying under oath to the Senate Watergate committee when he described the President as saying "it would be wrong" to raise \$1-million to pay Mr. Hunt and the other six original Watergate defendants.

A tape recording of that March 21 meeting was subpoenaed by the special prosecutor and presumably was available for playing to the grand jury.

In the regular White House briefing today, which was held before Judge Sirica's announcement of the hearing, Mr. Warren spent about 35 minutes in a question-and-answer session on the issues of impeachment and the sealed report.

He declined to give the White House view except to say that the defendants are innocent until proved guilty.

He said both he and the President stood by Mr. Nixon's Aug. 22, 1973, statement at a news conference that backs up Mr. Haldeman's words that "it would be wrong" to raise the money.