

No Appeal on Secret Report

Washington

Lawyers for two former White House aides indicted in the Watergate coverup said yesterday that they will make no further attempts to block delivery of a secret grand jury report on President Nixon to the House Judiciary committee.

The decision removes the last barrier to the turnover today of the evidence that the Watergate grand jury gave U.S. District Judge

John J. Sirica in a bulging brown satchel on March 1.

The former Nixon aides who had protested the turnover — ex-White House chief of staff H. R. Haldeman and his one-time deputy, Gordon Strachan — had been given until 5 p.m. today to make a final appeal to the Supreme Court.

However, Strachan's lawyer, John M. Bray, said yesterday that he had decided not to make the effort.

"We figure that we've made our point," Bray said of the defense protests that release of the report to the House committee would inevitably generate prejudicial publicity and preclude fair criminal trials.

Haldeman's attorney, John J. Wilson, confirmed that he would not seek Supreme Court review either.

"We're through," Wilson

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said of the fast-paced court fight.

Sirica ruled last week that the grand jury's evidence of Mr. Nixon's involvement in the Watergate scandal was unquestionably "material" to the House Judiciary committee's efforts to determine whether the President should be impeached.

Haldeman's and Strachan's attorneys then sought to block the turnover in the

Court of Appeals, but they were rebuffed Thursday by a 5-to-1 ruling.

They had contended that its contents might leak out prior to the September 1 trial of seven former Nixon administration officials and campaign aides. Such an occurrence could create publicity that might prejudice the rights of these defendants to a fair trial, attorneys argued.

Watergate prosecutors

said they were confident that fair criminal trials could still be held even though delivery of the report might pose some risks.

"The Court of Appeals has warned them," Bray said yesterday. "They (the prosecutors) have decided to take the risk."

Final arrangements for delivery of the report to the Judiciary committee have yet to be made. The documents are being kept in a safe in Sirica's chambers.

The secret papers include a two-page letter from the grand jury urging transmittal of the report to the Judiciary committee; an index of events dealing with the President that the grand jury considers pertinent to the impeachment inquiry; and documents, including grand jury testimony and exhibits, bearing on each of those events.

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