

Jesuit Superior to Summon Nixon Aide

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By The Associated Press

BOSTON, May 22—The religious superior of a Jesuit priest who works in the White House as an aide to President Nixon said today that he would summon the Presidential assistant back to Boston for "prayer" and "reflection."

The Rev. Richard T. Cleary, regional provincial of the Jesuit Fathers of New England, said that he was "puzzled" as to whether the Nixon aide, the Rev. John J. McLaughlin, was living up to his vows of poverty and obedience.

Father Cleary said that he could find "encouragement" but no record that permission had been given for Father McLaughlin to work in the White House. Even if such permission had been given, Father Cleary said he was not sure it would cover public statements.

Father McLaughlin recently defended Mr. Nixon's use of swear words, as revealed in White House transcripts of Watergate-related conversations. He said that swearing sometimes served as a release mechanism.

Father Cleary said he was not calling Father McLaughlin "on the carpet."

"I will be asking him to take a brief time away for prayer about his situation and reflection with me," Father Cleary said.

Father Cleary made his remarks in a rare news conference today. Earlier in the day



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The Rev. John J. McLaughlin at news meeting in Chicago

he issued a statement that said: "I would like to state that Father McLaughlin does not speak officially in any way whatsoever for the church, the Jesuit fathers or myself.

"When he speaks, he does for himself alone. His opinions and interpretations of the moral law and points of view are entirely his own, and they should be taken and evaluated as such."

In Chicago, Father Mc-

Laughlin was told of Father Cleary's statement and said, "I don't intend to speak for the Church but for the President."

Father Cleary said at his news conference that he spoke with Father McLaughlin in Washington recently. He said it was Father McLaughlin's understanding that he had received permission to work in the White House.

Father Cleary said he also

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had no record that Father McLaughlin had ever been given permission to live in the exclusive Watergate apartments.

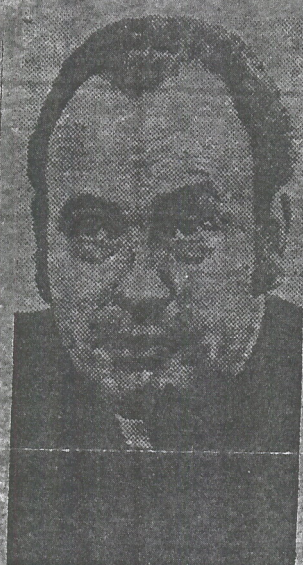
"Speaking for myself, I would not live there," Father Cleary said. Jesuits are usually required to live in Jesuit communities, he said.

Disagrees with Remarks

Father Cleary said that he recognized Father McLaughlin's legal right to speak as a private citizen but that "I do not personally subscribe to, endorse or approve" his remarks.

Asked if he agreed with Father McLaughlin's defense of President Nixon's strong language in White House conversations, Father Cleary said, "I would be stading up against Moses if I did. . . Thou shalt not take the name of they Lord and God in vain."

In response to questions, Father Cleary indicated he had three options in dealing with Father McLaughlin — to do not



Associated Press

The Rev. Richard T. Cleary tells in Boston of his plans for the Rev. John J. McLaughlin, Jesuit aide to the President.

ing to instruct him to leave the White House, or to recommend his dismissal from the Jesuit order, although his status as a priest would not necessarily be affected.

Father Cleary would not speculate on which option was most likely and said, "I do not

intend to hurt him. I am not saying he is not in good standing as a Jesuit priest."

Father Cleary, speaking of Father McLaughlin's attitude toward the controversy over his status at the White House, said, "He likes to feel it's a political question. I do not feel it is. The question at issue is a religious one."

Priest Scores Waldie

CHICAGO, May 22 (AP)—Father McLaughlin urged today that a third member of the House Judiciary Committee disqualify himself from the inquiry into the possible impeachment of President Nixon. The Jesuit priest said that Representative Jerome Waldie, Democrat of California, "quite clearly has convicted President Nixon in his head and in his heart" and has "severely prejudiced the impartiality" of the committee.

Father McLaughlin said he was speaking for the President. He previously has urged two other Democrats—Representative Robert F. Drinnin of Massachusetts, also a Jesuit priest, and John Conyers of Michigan—to disqualify themselves from the inquiry.

"I am a spokesman for the President," he said. "My statements are consonant with those of the President. But I wouldn't want my statements to be taken completely literally."