

Nixon Jesuit Aide Wants 'Study'

Associated Press

The Rev. Dr. John McLaughlin, the Jesuit priest on the White House staff who got in a dispute with his superiors over his defense of President Nixon, said yesterday that he is considering whether to heed a call to return to Boston for "prayer and reflection."

McLaughlin, a deputy special assistant to Mr. Nixon, said he had received a letter from the very Rev. Richard T. Cleary, New England provincial of the Society of Jesus, calling for an early meeting.

Father McLaughlin said he hadn't decided yet what he would do but would have further comment today.

"I want to study. I want to reflect," he said only hours after receiving the letter.

Meanwhile, in an interview from Iemi Italy, the Jesuit superior who gave McLaughlin permission to go to Washington said yesterday that McLaughlin "is being used by the White House."

The Rev. William G. Guindon, New England provincial until February of this year, when he took a year-long sabbatical, told The Boston Evening Globe that when he first gave McLaughlin permission to "write speeches for special assistant Raymond Price, I thought it was a good idea. But I wasn't aware of what would happen in 1974."

Father Cleary said in Boston Wednesday that there is a possibility Father McLaughlin could be asked to leave his White House post or be dismissed from the order. He noted that McLaughlin is living in the Watergate apartments in Washington, and questioned whether the priest was living up to his vows of poverty and obedience.

One-bedroom units at the

Watergate rent for \$425 to \$700 a month.

Father McLaughlin would not disclose his salary, saying only that it was "a modest living wage." Other White House aides on the same level as Father McLaughlin are paid in the \$25,000-a-year range.

Father McLaughlin recently backed Mr. Nixon's private

use of profanity, as evidenced in the frequent occurrence of "expletive deleted" in the edited White House transcripts of Nixon conversations. Father McLaughlin said that Mr. Nixon was a great moral leader and that the use of curse words was a necessary release mechanism.