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## *Nixon Asks Court Ruling On Power of Grand Jury*

*By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter*

WASHINGTON — President Nixon has asked the Supreme Court to decide whether a grand jury has authority to charge a sitting President as an indicted coconspirator in a criminal proceeding.

White House lawyers said the issue should be made part of a Watergate-related case the high court already has agreed to review. In that case, the Justices will decide whether Mr. Nixon must surrender 64 tape recordings that Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski says he needs to try six former Presidential aides indicted in the Watergate coverup.

Last week it was disclosed that the grand jury that indicted those former aides also named Mr. Nixon as a coconspirator but without indicting him. The Supreme Court is considering whether to make those grand jury documents public.

Meanwhile, Mr. Nixon's lawyers have challenged the grand jury's authority in a petition to the Supreme Court. Permitting such grand jury action "seriously impinges" on the impeachment authority granted solely to the House by the Constitution, the lawyers argued. They also said it might subject a President to similar action by any grand jury in the U.S. "The prejudicial nature and irreparable effect of such a grand jury finding cannot be seriously questioned," the attorneys said.