

Santarelli Is Advising Ford Aide

Donald E. Santarelli, who quit a top Justice Department job after calling last spring for the resignation of Richard M. Nixon, is advising the White House on matters involving President Ford's pardon of the former President.

White House deputy press secretary John W. Hushen confirmed yesterday that Santarelli had been called to the White House twice for consultation, but initially denied the former Justice Department official was involved in the Nixon pardon controversy or the related dispute over Mr. Nixon's presidential papers.

In response to subsequent questions, however, Hushen acknowledged that some of Santarelli's discussions with presidential counselor Philip V. Buchen were linked to Mr. Ford's planned appearance next Thursday before a congressional subcommittee on the Nixon pardon.

"The question of executive privilege does come up in connection with the President's planned appearance in connection with precedent about future requests for presidential testimony," Hushen said.

He said he did not want to imply the President plans to invoke executive privilege when he goes before the subcommittee, saying Mr. Ford intended to be "fully responsive."

As for the two meetings he said Santarelli had held with Buchen, "some of his advice may relate" to the pardon issue "but it is more basically a question of legislative proposals regarding executive privilege."

Santarelli headed the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration until submitting his resignation in June following publication of an interview in which he said Mr. Nixon should resign because "there is no White House. There is no White House anymore."

He remains on the LEAA payroll as a \$135-a-day consultant.

Initially Hushen had said Santarelli had been temporarily detailed to the White House as a consultant, but later said "he really isn't detailed here . . . We're making very little

use of him."

Hushen said then that Buchen had "called on him for consultation" and that Santarelli had conferred twice with Mr. Ford's top lawyer on "various legislative proposals pending in Congress concerning executive privilege."

"He is giving advice to the President's legal counsel on legislative proposals," Hushen said of Santarelli.