

Calling of Kriegel and Fraiman Not Discussed in Graft Inquiry

By DAVID BURNHAM

The special committee investigating police corruption in New York has discussed the possibility of calling policemen to testify, but has not discussed calling either Jay Kriegel, an assistant to Mayor Lindsay on law enforcement or Supreme Court Justice Arnold G. Fraiman, the former Investigation Commissioner.

This was disclosed yesterday by the Committee's chairman, Corporation Counsel J. Lee Rankin, at the end of its third closed session.

The five-man group was formed by Mayor Lindsay on April 23 after he learned that The New York Times was preparing to publish the results of a survey of police corruption.

The survey included charges that the police received millions of dollars a year in graft and that high officials in the Lindsay administration and Police Department had failed to investigate specific cases of corruption that had been presented to them.

Mr. Kriegel and Mr. Fraiman were among those accused by persons interviewed in the survey of not having followed up on corruption charges. Mr. Kriegel has made no comment on the charges and Justice Fraiman has denied them.

Mr. Rankin also disclosed a number of persons had told the committee they were willing to identify themselves and testify publicly about specific acts of police corruption. He said others who wanted to remain anonymous had volunteered information.

"Today," Mr. Rankin said, "we have reviewed our problems, and discussed a number of matters in regard to com-

plaints that have been received."

He asked why the committee had not yet called any witnesses. "We haven't reached that stage yet," he replied. "It is a matter of setting priorities."

Mr. Rankin was asked if the committee discussed calling police officials? He said, "Yes." Asked about Mr. Kriegel and Justice Fraiman, he replied, "We haven't discussed calling them."

The Corporation Counsel declined to comment further on the committee's plans other than to confirm Mayor Lindsay's previous announcement that the group would make some recommendations to the Mayor within the next week.

Informants in the Lindsay administration said late last week that the Mayor planned to form a new and larger committee to take on the investigation of police corruption.

This move, they said, would give the Mayor a graceful way of removing Police Commissioner Howard R. Leary from the investigating committee. His presence on the committee has been criticized as representing a conflict of interest.

Commissioner Leary did not attend yesterday's two-hour meeting. Mr. Rankin denied that the absence was in any way connected with the criticism of Mr. Leary's assignment to the committee.

"The report I received," the chairman said, "was that he was out all night in regard to police problems and that he was soaking wet and was going to get a little rest before going out again."

The committee is scheduled to meet again at 9 A.M. today.