

Score Is Kept on Games Played Here

Jack Anderson

Some occasional scorekeeping may help the public keep up with the games that are played in Washington.

For two years, the American people have been bombarded with charges and denials. Now President Nixon has confessed that he lied even to his own aides about his role in the Watergate cover-up.

Loyal White House aides were stunned, say our sources, when they heard excerpts from the 64 suppressed tapes. One White House source told us grimly that no man should have his most intimate manipulations exposed in such excruciating detail as the tapes reveal the President.

It's no secret, of course, that we have been in the forefront of those who have accused President Nixon of condoning lawlessness while he preached law and order.

For our pains, we have been hounded by government gumshoes. The notorious "plumbers" posted my name on the wall of their White House hang-out as their chief target in the spring of 1972. They arranged with the Justice Department's Internal Security Division to stake out my house and tail me wherever I went.

At least four people had their phones tapped because they were suspected of giving us information. Others were interrogated while strapped to lie detectors. One suspected source was browbeaten until he broke down and wept.

My associate Les Whitten was arrested and handcuffed by FBI agents on phony charges that were quickly rejected by a grand jury. One of the "plumbers," G. Gordon Liddy, even

started off to gun me down until he was stopped by a horrified Jeb Magruder.

Throughout it all, the White House assailed us with denials and denunciations. In light of the President's latest confession, now may be a good time to publish the box score:

- We reported "categorically" on April 26, 1973, that "President Nixon had no advance knowledge of the Watergate break-in and bugging." But we repeatedly charged, beginning as early as March 29, 1973, that he had approved the overall espionage-sabotage operation and the later cover-up. All of this is now confirmed in the White House tapes.

- As early as Jan. 11 and 15, 1973, we revealed for the first time that E. Howard Hunt had access to mysterious cash and that he had offered to buy the silence of fellow Watergate conspirators. We later learned the money had come from a \$350,000 cash fund which, we reported on April 19, 1973, had been stashed in the apartment of White House aide Fred LaRue. This has now developed into one of the most serious charges against President Nixon.

- We revealed on Aug. 6, 1971, that billionaire Howard Hughes had sent a \$100,000 cash gift to President Nixon. The money was delivered to his friend Bebe Rebozo who collected cash from "other fatcats," we wrote on Jan. 23, 1973, including the founders of the Winn-Dixie supermarket chain. These facts have now been established beyond dispute.

- We tipped off Senate investigators that Rebozo had distributed the Hughes cash, in part, to the President's secre-

tary, Rose Mary Woods, and his two brothers, Donald and Edward. The investigators got confirmation under oath from the President's former attorney, Herbert Kalmbach. To cover up this misuse of the Hughes money, the investigators believe, the White House took steps which led to the original Watergate break-in. Their theory that the whole Watergate fiasco grew out of an attempt to conceal the Hughes-Nixon connection has been spelled out now in a Senate Watergate committee staff report.

- We revealed on Sept. 23, 1972, while former Attorney General John Mitchell was still riding high, that he had received copies of the Watergate wiretap reports. This was the first public charge that he was linked to the Watergate operation. The code name for the wiretap reports, we later disclosed, was "Gemstone." Mitchell denied his involvement under oath. "The first time I ever heard of Gemstone," he swore, "was in Jack Anderson's column." But a grand jury has now indicted him for conspiracy and perjury.

- Beginning on Oct. 3, 1972, we told in a series of columns how President Nixon had squandered the taxpayers' money on his San Clemente and Key Biscayne estates. A confidential Sept. 28, 1972, memo describes how the General Services Administration tried to hide the facts from us. The details were spread on the record, completely confirming our reports, during the impeachment debate.

- We also wrote a series of columns, beginning Oct. 16, 1973, detailing how the President had

escaped paying his fair share of taxes. Refuting his claim that the tax irregularities had been the work of subordinates, we reported on March 8, 1974, that he had checked over the controversial returns "page by page" before signing them. All of this has been confirmed in sworn testimony before the joint congressional taxation committee and the House Judiciary Committee.

- We were the first to confront ex-Vice President Spiro Agnew in 1971, according to his former press secretary Vic Gold, with charges that Agnew had been taking bribes from Maryland contractors. Agnew categorically denied the charges, and our sources refused to step into the open. So the story went unpublished for two years until government prosecutors nailed the former Vice President.

- We reported on April 10, 1974, that former Treasury Secretary John Connally was under investigation for alleged bribery, a "dramatic development," we wrote, "that could finish Connally as a presidential contender." Some newspapers, in picking up our story, quoted government investigators as saying the charges were "iffy." Now a grand jury has indicted Connally without any ifs.

- During our expose of ITT in March, 1972, we accused both Attorney General Richard Kleindienst and California's Lieutenant Governor Ed Reinecke of lying about their testimony in the case. Kleindienst has now pleaded guilty to making a "false statement," and Reinecke has been convicted of perjury.

We cite the cox scores not to boast but to encourage public officials to tell the truth.

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