

Dean Says Ziegler Practiced Water

N. Y. Times News Service
Washington— Fired White House counsel John W. Dean 3d last week told Senate investigators how presidential press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler wasn't told the facts about Watergate but was coached on how to "hedge and bob and weave" with reporters about it.

Dean released this mid-October 1972 transcript of a news briefing "practice session" for Ziegler with John D. Ehrlich-

man, Mr. Nixon's domestic adviser at the time; Dwight Chapin, the former presidential appointments secretary, and Richard Moore, former special counsel to the President:

ZIEGLER: Dwight Chapin already made it clear that the story was fundamentally inaccurate and one based on hearsay. Now there have been a number of stories which have appeared over the last few days—and over the law fe

months—that you gentlemen have asked me about.

"Hearsay" Approach

All of these stories have been based on hearsay or on sources which have not been identified. These stories have resulted in substantial confusion. All of them seem to be lumped together as the Watergate affair. The Watergate affair is one that has been thoroughly investigated and seven men have been indicted. It has been one of the most extensive investigations in history.

The other stories that have run relate to the Watergate where criminal action is involved. But still we see such stories as espionage, sabotage, spying, surveillance—all being charged to activities of the reelection campaign. But none of the charges are based upon anything more than hearsay or unidentified sources.

Now I can tell you I have nothing more to say or add on this subject beyond what Dwight Chapin said in his statement—but I will tell you this. At no time has anyone in the White House or this Administration condoned such activities as spying on individuals, or sabotaging campaigns in an illegal way. The President has said before and I will repeat it again. He does not condone this type of activity.

Now three weeks before the election there is a flurry of sensationalism. I am not going to inject the White House into these stories. I am not going to assume the responsibility from this podium and from the White House press room to answer every unfounded story based on hearsay or unidentified sources. . . . Every story based on some sensational charge during this period . . .

Ehrlichman's Suggestion

EHRlichman: We are going to see all kinds of presidential friends, presidential staff, presidential relatives, dogs, etc., pictures on the front pages of local newspapers to counteract the fact that McGovern is 2 to 1 behind. I am not going to try to cope with these unfounded stories.

CHAPIN: I am not going to dignify desperation politics.



Ronald L. Ziegler

. . . wasn't told the facts

QUESTION: Ron, that was a self-righteous, self-serving statement. Simply, is the answer yes or no? Did Dwight Chapin, the President's appointments secretary—man who meets with the President regularly—hire Segretti and instruct him to engage in sabotage?

ZIEGLER: Gentlemen, I have nothing to add to what Mr. Chapin has already said on this and that is that the story is fundamentally inaccurate and based on hearsay.

Holding Firm

QUESTION: But Ron, why don't you just ask Dwight or why doesn't the President just ask him. Did he or did he not hire Segretti?

ZIEGLER: Gentlemen, I have nothing to add to what Chapin has already said on the subject.

QUESTION: Are you telling us that you won't say whether or not the President condones activities such as sabotage, espionage, surveillance?

ZIEGLER: If you would listen to what I said, you will note that I stated that the President in no way condones this type of activity and no one in the White House under any circumstances directed, encouraged, or suggested that people at any level in the campaign involve themselves in surveillance of individuals, spying on individuals, stealing

gate Briefing

documents or any illegal or repulsive steps such as have been charged in the source sensational stories that have been published.

QUESTION: Is it true that Segretti was a close, personal friend of Chapin's?

ZIEGLER: Mr. Chapin covered that in the statement.

QUESTION: When was the last time that Chapin saw Segretti?

ANSWER: I don't know.

QUESTION: Why don't you ask him?

ANSWER: Gentlemen, I told you I had nothing to add.

The Put-Down

EHRlichman: We just don't take as seriously as you do these campaign pranks. Some of you for your own purposes have blown these into something that is not there.

ZIEGLER: I don't think we can take on the press.

EHRlichman: Dwight Chapin is terribly offended at the treatment he got over the weekend. I approached him to the possibility of coming out here. He said he would never again speak to any member of the press and he would like your apologies.

MOORE: This refers to a statement of policy and it is clear that it is the right one. What is the right of anyone to

expect an answer from this podium on a story which is based on sources you will not reveal?

Good citizens are being vilified based on irresponsible, unidentified stories and stories which draw broad-sweeping conclusions. You have this right under the First Amendment—make charges on hearsay evidence.

Looking for Holes

Today you had a four-column picture in which Dwight Chapin was named as a contact in sabotage. The person who said it was not named. To take this admittedly, unsupported, non-knowledge and assert it as knowledge to the point where—you may do so, but it does not give you a right to expect an answer from the President's press secretary or from the President of the United States. When and if anyone comes in here with evidence of wrongdoing you will receive an answer. Until that occurs, we will go on to the next questions or next subject. Jim Mitchell—Fund. He denied it. Bill Timmons—he denied it.

Clawson and the letter—he denied it. In none of these cases was the source for the story revealed, but these men for the rest of their lives will

have to live with these charges for which they have no recourse.

QUESTION: If you feel so strongly about this, then why don't you just deny it?

These are the rules. Mr. Chapin has asked me to make a voluntary statement. As a man who has worked in campaigns for X number of years and have seen many pranks and hoaxes, it occurred to me we should have our own Dick Tuck in this campaign. Gordon Strachan recalled that our friend, Don Segretti, was coming out of the Army in September. We called him and he expressed interest in the assignment of being a counteragent. On that basis I said to him that perhaps I could get an okay for you to be supported and take off on your own on activities as long as they are legal.

I referred him to Mr. Kalmbach, who did supply funds which would allow him to act on his own for a few months. I did this on my own without any knowledge or encouragement or authority.

I have read nothing to the contrary that Segretti has done anything illegal or inconsistent with traditional stories in politics—and the most I heard was a postcard or clipping from the newspaper.

I have noted that nothing has

been said that anything was illegal or of any consequence.

Then you might read a statement from the President of the United States . . . Dwight Chapin is one of the most able and most respected men on my staff. In my opinion, he made a mistake in encouraging pranks. However, this has occurred in my campaigns in the past and had no effect there. I am sure these pranks have had no effects here.

Drawing Distinctions

EHRlichman: Two exceptions: the Government and the White House. Chapin is the White House and the separation—you bridge the separation when you get the President in it.

ZIEGLER: Who paid him and how was he paid?

MOORE: On Mr. Chapin's recommendation that he was going to further the cause of the campaign, Mr. Kalmbach paid him.

DEAN: If we are doing something about them, there are a host of charges here and we are looking into them. and we are going to have a response for you.

MOORE: We make investigations and we check the evidence.

DEAN: It is being looked into — we are looking into it. We don't have the answers.