

Watergate Tide Fails to Turn

White House Still Preoccupied by Disclosures

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President Nixon's speech last Monday night on his handling of the Watergate affair has failed to shift either public or White House attention to other matters as the President had hoped, according to White House sources.

"The President is still deeply involved in dealing with the Watergate investigation," one source said, "and is spending much time on it."

The source cited in particular the series of recent disclosures tying the White House and the CIA to the burglary of the Beverly Hills office of the psychiatrist for Pentagon Papers defendant Daniel Ellsberg.

One White House official said: "There's a crisis mood continuing. We can't run away from it—the issue is still presidential credibility."

The Watergate problems now facing Mr. Nixon include:

- John W. Dean III, the ousted presidential counsel who has a 43-page Watergate report and eight other potentially

explosive documents in an Alexandria safe deposit box. Dean's attorneys have been seeking immunity for their client from either the Justice Department or the Senate select committee investigating Watergate. There were some indications yesterday that Dean may already have made a deal.

- The Senate committee's ongoing investigation and its public hearings, scheduled to begin this month.

- The continuing renewed grand jury investigation under the direction of the Justice Department, and the mounting pressure for the new Attorney General designate, Elliot Richardson, to name a special supervising prosecutor for that probe.

- The uncertain fate of the President's two former top aides, H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, who are targets of the grand jury investigation into the alleged cover-up of high-level involvement in the bugging of the Democrats' Watergate headquarters. Haldeman and Ehrlichman, who both resigned Monday, appeared before both the grand jury and the Senate committee staff last week.

- A New York grand jury probe into a \$200,000 cash contribution by financier Robert L. Vesco to the Nixon campaign. It has been reliably reported that former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, the President's campaign manager, and former Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans, the chief Nixon fund raiser last year, are targets of that investigation.

- The Ellsberg break-in disclosures, which lend credence to reports of an extensive White House "dirty tricks" operation assisted by the CIA.

White House sources said that the Watergate investigations have come upon several highly classified national security matters—particularly the Ellsberg investigation.

Former White House aide Egil (Bud) Krogh Jr. has acknowledged to government investigators that he authorized the Ellsberg break-in, according to reliable sources. Krogh, according to reliable reports of his sworn statement, has said

More on Watergate

The background and ramifications of the Watergate affair are explored today in the Outlook section. Included are an appraisal of the disclosures by Haynes Johnson; an analysis of the Nixon men by Richard J. Whalen; a view of the threat to the presidency by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey; a critique of the President under pressure by Jules Witcover, and a review of the legal aspects by Rufus King. *Section C*

The White House is reported to have ordered the Central Intelligence Agency to provide a psychiatric profile of Daniel Ellsberg over the objections of the chief of the CIA's psychiatric division. *Page A18*

For 10 months, the Justice Department had in its possession knowledge of an independent White House probe of Daniel Ellsberg and files on him from E. Howard Hunt. *Page A17*

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that the investigation was undertaken on orders from the President, but that the President in no way authorized or knew of the break-in.

"It's the most delicate thing," one White House source said. "We may have to stop the disclosure of some of this stuff on national security grounds, and it might appear as if we're trying to cover up."

One source said that the documents that former presidential counsel John W. Dean III has placed in a bank safe deposit box also touch on national security matters. An associate close to Dean has

said that some of the information might make reference to wiretapping.

The Washington Post reported this week that the telephones of two New York Times reporters were tapped in 1971 as part of the investigation reportedly ordered by President Nixon into the leak of the Pentagon Papers to the press.

According to one source, the wiretapping was supervised by Watergate conspirators E. Howard Hunt Jr. and G. Gordon Liddy, both of whom then worked in the White House under Krogh. Although the legality of such wiretapping is unsettled, it was ordered, according to the source, by Mitchell while he was Attorney General.