

Ziegler, Two Others Implicated by Dean In Cover-Up Effort

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WASHINGTON, June 25—At least three present or former White House staff members, in addition to those long linked to the Watergate-scandal, were implicated in the cover-up of the case today by John W. Dean 3d.

The former Presidential counsel charged that, to varying degrees, Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary; Richard A. Moore, a special counsel to the President, and Wallace H. Johnson Jr., a former Congressional liaison man, had taken part in the cover-up.

In all the months of testimony and newspaper reports on the case, none had been named previously. None responded to requests for comment on Mr. Dean's testimony.

Mr. Ziegler, the chief White House instrument for deflecting press inquiries about the case for more than a year, is by far the best known of the three. But Mr. Dean's assertions regarding Mr. Ziegler's role were somewhat ambiguous.

The former counsel said, for example, that Mr. Ziegler attended a meeting on Oct. 15, 1972, to discuss a strategy for dealing with "cascading leaked stories" regarding the activities of Donald H. Segretti, who has been described as a dirty-tricks

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operative in the Nixon re-election campaign.

"This session," Mr. Dean added, "was not unlike many other sessions that had preceded it and were to follow it in preparing Ziegler to meet the White House press corps. It would, however, take me another 200 pages to give that story."

Mr. Dean did not say specifically that Mr. Ziegler had learned at the meeting the full details of Mr. Segretti's activities, but Dwight L. Chapin, who had hired Mr. Segretti, was also at the meeting. And the tenor of Mr. Dean's remarks suggested strongly that Mr. Segretti's role was to have been minimized, as it in fact was at subsequent news briefings by Mr. Ziegler.

Chapin's Departure

In the last week of October, for example, Mr. Ziegler said that no one at the White House had been involved in Mr. Segretti's activities, "because espionage is something we don't condone and won't tolerate."

Similarly, Mr. Dean testified that he was told as early as Nov. 15, 1972, that President Nixon had reluctantly decided that Mr. Chapin would have to leave the staff because of his links to Mr. Segretti. But when Mr. Chapin's departure was finally announced on Jan. 29, Mr. Ziegler gave a different version.

Mr. Chapin was leaving, the press secretary said, only because of a "fine" business opportunity and had had "every opportunity" to stay at the White House. A report to the contrary in The New York Times, Mr. Ziegler added, was "absolutely unfounded and untrue."

Taps on Newsmen

But Mr. Dean also indicated, in at least one instance, that Mr. Ziegler had been misled by other staff members.

He said that when he had confronted John D. Ehrlichman with data he had gathered about wiretaps on the telephones of newsmen and White House staff members, Mr. Ehrlichman, then Mr. Nixon's top domestic affairs adviser, confirmed the existence of the taps. Then he asked Mr. Ehrlichman what Mr. Ziegler should say, because Time magazine was about to print the report.

"He said Mr. Ziegler should flatly deny it—period," Mr. Dean recalled. "I thanked him, called Mr. Ziegler and so advised him." Subsequently, Mr. Ziegler denied the story.

Mr. Dean's testimony about Mr. Moore was more direct.

"While Moore did not know all the facts" by February of this year, Mr. Dean said, "he knew a great deal and was becoming increasingly aware of the dimensions of the problems. . . . I told him he cover-up was bigger than the Watergate incident per se. the more we talked about it the less we could find a solution."

Mr. Dean also testified that Mr. Moore, a close associate of former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, had flown to New York to urge Mr. Mitchell to raise money demanded by the seven original Watergate defendants as the price for silence.

Mr. Moore, a Yale-educated lawyer, came to the White House in 1971 from California, where he had been active both in communications law and the communications business. At one time he was a director of The Times-Mirror Company, which publishes The Los Angeles Times.

Mr. Johnson, now the Assistant Attorney General in charge of lands and natural resources, was named by Mr. Dean as a principal in the effort to defuse the Senate Watergate hearings by planting either Senators or a minority counsel likely to take the White House viewpoint.