

Gray Won't Retract

New York

Acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray has rejected a demand from President Nixon's chief legal counsel John W. Dean that Gray retract his charge that Dean probably lied to FBI agents investigating the Watergate affair, Time magazine said last night.

Gray had told the Senate Judiciary Committee that on June 19, 1972 — two days after seven men were arrested in connection with the Watergate incident — Dean ordered that the safe of one of the defendants, E. Howard Hunt Jr., be opened in the Executive Office Building next to the White House. According to Gray, Dean then held Hunt's office property, including papers and a gun, before turning it over to the FBI.

Three days later, Gray testified Dean was asked by an FBI agent whether Hunt had an office in the Executive Office Building. Dean, according to Gray, "indicated at that time that he didn't know whether Mr. Hunt had an office" and said "he'd have to check it out."

At that point, Senator Robert Byrd (Dem-W. Va.) asked Gray: "he lied to the agent, didn't he?"

Gray replied: "I would have to conclude that probably is correct." *Reuters*