

Dean Is Said to Have Linked Nixon To Money for Watergate Cover-Up

By SEYMOUR M. HERSH
N. Y. Times News Service
Washington — Well-informed sources said yesterday that John Dean 3d will tell the Senate Watergate committee next week that the only explicit conversations he held with President Nixon about the Watergate cover-up took

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place in late March, shortly before James W. McCord Jr., one of the convicted defendants in the break-in decided to tell federal officials about his role.

Throughout the previous months, the sources said, both McCord and E. Howard Hunt Jr., another Watergate participant, were putting pres-

sure on the White House for more cash and guarantees of executive clemency in return for continued silence.

According to Dean, former White House counsel, the President asked him at one point how much the defendants would have to be paid to insure that silence, and Dean said an additional \$1 million, the sources said. The White House had already turned over \$460,000 to the seven men and their attorneys, but Dean quoted the President as saying that there would be no problem in paying that amount, the sources continued.

Payments Reported

Yesterday, the Washington Post reported that Hunt had demanded an additional \$130,000 in cash shortly before his sentencing on March 23 for his role in the break-in. Earlier, the Post said, Hunt had received more than \$200,000 from the White House to remain silent, and also assurances of executive clemency.

Sources close to the case reported Dean as saying that some time soon after April 15, the day on which Mr. Nixon received a report from the federal prosecutors implicating a number of his top aides, the President brought up the remark about cash payments in another conversation with
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Nixon Link to Cover-Up Reported

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Dean and said, "Oh, by the way, I was kidding about that."

"The President was doing a little self-protection operation," the source, who has heard all of Dean's account, said.

A number of officials acknowledged that Dean had presented a similar version of his late March and mid-April conversations with Mr. Nixon both to the Senate committee and to the federal prosecutors.

No Corroboration

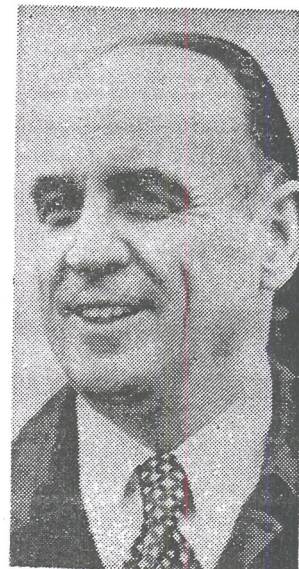
One official also noted, however, that every time Dean had a conversation with the President about the cover-up "he's the only one present. There's no corroboration — no proof."

The sources said Dean has also told government investigators that a high White House aide informed him early last January that the orders for the burglary of files belonging to Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's former psychiatrist came "from the Oval Office" of the President.

The sources said that Dean had related that the information about Mr. Nixon's alleged involvement came from Egil Krogh Jr., one of directors of the so-called "Plumbers Group" assigned by the President to investigate Ellsberg after the publication of the



E. Howard Hunt Jr.



James W. McCord Jr.

Pentagon papers in June, 1971.

The burglary occurred in Beverly Hills, Calif., September, 1971.

Krogh resigned in May as under secretary of transportation.

Nixon Denial

In his May 22 statement on the related Watergate scandal, Mr. Nixon specifically denied any advance knowledge of the west coast burglary.

"It was not until the time of my own investigation," he said, "that I learned of the break-in at the office of Mr.

Ellsberg's psychiatrist."

Later in the statement, Mr. Nixon said, he told Krogh that the Plumbers, so called because they were to stop security leaks, should find out all it could about Ellsberg's associates and motives, but "I did not authorize and had no knowledge of any illegal means to be used to achieve this goal."

Dean is said to have told investigators that he discussed the California break-in and the authorization for it with Krogh while serving as Krogh's counsel shortly before Senate Commerce Committee confirmations hearings on Krogh's presidential nomination to be under secretary of transportation.

Krogh had served since 1969 as a White House aide to John D. Ehrlichman, now resigned as the President's domestic adviser, and Dean advised him on matters of executive privilege and national security.