

Dean Quizzing

Postponed

For Week

Balt. Evening Sun 4/18/73
Washington (AP)—The Senate

Watergate investigating committee today postponed for one week its questioning of former White House counsel John W. Dean 3d.

Washington (AP)—John W. Dean 3d goes before the Senate Watergate committee in secret session today as the senators prepare to question the fired White House counsel for up to three days of televised public hearings.

The panel is expected to consider national-security questions and Dean's many conversations with President Nixon to determine how much the senators can bring out publicly. At issue is whether Dean's testimony might expose critical government secrets or violate the right of a client—Mr. Nixon—to speak with his attorney without fear of disclosure.

May Implicate Nixon

Some published accounts suggest that Dean, granted limited immunity by the Senate committee, might attempt to offer evidence that Mr. Nixon was aware of the Watergate coverup. The President has denied any knowledge of the coverup and blamed Dean for not telling him.

Various accounts indicate the 34-year-old lawyer was at the center of the scandal from the beginning, helped mastermind the coverup and, according to news reports, is prepared to say Mr. Nixon personally congratulated him for his efforts to keep high officials from being indicted.

Nixon's Defense

The Washington Post said Mr. Nixon is expected to defend himself against allegations of involvement in the Watergate coverup by saying he was misled by H. R. (Bob) Haldeman and John D. Ehr-

lichman, his former principal deputies.

The newspaper quoted White House and other government sources as saying that instead of broadly claiming noninvolvement, the emerging White House position will acknowledge misjudgments on Mr. Nixon's part and indicate they resulted from misinformation

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and unauthorized action by Haldeman and Ehrlichman.

John J. Wilson, attorney for Haldeman and Ehrlichman, said he had not heard of any change in the White House position and would have no comment on the Post story. However, he did reassert the innocence of his clients.

In his nationally televised speech April 30, Mr. Nixon described Haldeman and Ehrlichman "as two of the finest public servants" he had ever known.

The Post said the change in strategy was specifically designed to counter charges by Dean.

"Complete Story" Expected

Senator Howard H. Baker, Jr., (R., Tenn.), vice chairman of the investigating committee, said Sunday he expects Dean "will tell a rather complete story" at the televised hearings beginning Tuesday.

Interviewed on the ABC broadcast "Issues and Answers," Baker said the President hopefully won't invoke executive privilege or the attorney-client relationship to block Dean's testimony.

Previous testimony by Jeb Stuart Magruder, former reelection committee deputy director, placed responsibility for the Watergate plans and coverup on himself, Dean and John N. Mitchell, former attorney general.

Magruder said he gave accounts of the plans to Gordon Strachan, aide to Haldeman, presidential chief of staff.

Haldeman has denied any prior knowledge of the break-in or the coverup, but Senate sources have told the Associated Press both Dean and Strachan are prepared to testify that Haldeman was kept informed of all major developments and decisions in the case.