

NEW DEAN CHARGE ON NIXON AWAITED

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Ex-Aide Is Expected to Tell About a Talk on Clemency —On Stand Tomorrow

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WASHINGTON, June 23—

John W. Dean 3d will tell the Senate Watergate committee next week that President Nixon indicated to him in mid-March that he had discussed executive clemency for E. Howard Hunt, Jr. with Charles W. Colson, Jr. with Charles W. Colson, Jr. sources close to Mr. Dean said today.

The sources said that Mr. Dean, who will appear before the committee Monday, would testify that the President seemed upset as he described his conversations with Mr. Colson. At one point, they said, Mr. Nixon declared to Mr. Dean: "I shouldn't have seen Colson about that. I shouldn't have dealt directly with him. Chuck shouldn't have brought that up in my presence."

A high White House official declined to comment on the report, saying: "We're not going to respond to these things that come out drip by drip."

Asked about today's report, David I. Shapiro, Mr. Colson's law partner, said, "I have no idea what the President told Mr. Dean, but the suggestion that Mr. Colson ever mentioned executive clemency on behalf of Mr. Hunt is sheer nonsense."

Mr. Colson, a former special counsel to Mr. Nixon, has denied an allegation published last month in Time and Newsweek magazines to the effect that he had relayed a request for executive clemency to Mr. Dean and John D. Ehrlichman,

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a former domestic adviser to Mr. Nixon. Mr. Ehrlichman resigned April 30 because of the Watergate scandal.

According to Mr. Dean's account, as reported in the magazines, Mr. Ehrlichman then walked to Mr. Nixon's White House office and returned with what he said was a Presidential promise of executive clemency for Hunt. Mr. Ehrlichman reportedly told Mr. Colson to tell Hunt's lawyer that "everything is O.K. but not to be 'too specific.'"

Mr. Dean is now prepared to testify, his associates said, that Mr. Colson "was obviously meeting with the President" about executive clemency and other Watergate matters early this year.

Mr. Colson has said publicly that he met early this year with Mr. Nixon and tried to warn him about the alleged misconduct of his top aides.

Week of Disclosure

Government officials with knowledge of Mr. Dean's previous testimony before the Federal prosecutors and the Senate Watergate committee said that the former White House counsel had not previously described the alleged Presidential conversation about Mr. Colson and executive clemency.

The report of the conversations between Mr. Nixon and Mr. Colson culminated a week of disclosures set off, in part, by the Senate committee's decision to delay Mr. Dean's appearance for a week because of the President's summit talks with Leonid I. Brezhnev of the Soviet Union.

Still at issue are these central questions: Is Mr. Dean telling the truth? And, if he is, can he independently prove any of his assertions?

Mr. Colson has repeatedly been cited as a participant in the Watergate scandal but is known not to be a target of the current grand jury investigation. In a series of recent interviews, he has denied any knowledge of the Watergate bugging plans and insisted that he made every effort not to learn about the cover-up.

He has emerged as a strong defender of Mr. Nixon and said that the President's key aides—including Mr. Dean—has consistently misled him.

Earlier this week, the Washington Post reported that Hunt, a friend of Mr. Colson, had told the Senate committee that Mr. Colson ordered him to break into the apartment of Arthur H. Bremer shortly after the youth attempted to assassinate Gov. George C. Wallace in May, 1972. Hunt allegedly said that Mr. Colson wanted to see if Bremer could be linked to left-wing causes.

Report Is Denied

Mr. Colson denied the report as "utterly preposterous." He also accused the Post of conducting a vendetta against him.

The White House is reported to be preparing to counter-attack as soon as Mr. Dean's Senate testimony — his first in public — is completed.

Many sources close to the White House believe that, as one put it today, "Dean can embarrass him [Mr. Nixon], but he can't impeach him."

These officials expressed the view that Mr. Dean's most damaging testimony would concern matters not related to

Watergate, such as alleged impropriety in a series of multi-million dollar contracts awarded in the first Nixon Administration.

"Once he lays it all out," one official close to the White House said, confidentially, "We'll cut him off at the knees."

It is known that Mr. Dean, in his initial discussions in late March and early April with the Government prosecutors, emphasized the alleged wrongdoing of Mr. Ehrlichman and H. R. Haldeman, the former White House chief of staff who also resigned April 30. In those conversations, sources said, Mr. Dean de-

picted the President as "cut off" and "isolated" by the two senior aides.

It was not until Mr. Dean realized that he was going to be dismissed, and perhaps made a scapegoat, sources said, that he began to tell about Mr. Nixon's alleged knowledge and role in the Watergate events.

Throughout his early testimony about Mr. Nixon, these sources added, Mr. Dean failed to provide any corroborative evidence, although he was then seeking immunity from prosecution. He has yet to obtain the grant of immunity from the Federal investigators, who have announced plans to prosecute him.