

# Leaks in Recess Increase Interest in Dean Testimony

6/25/73  
By CHRISTOPHER LYDON  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 23—The weeklong pause in the Senate's Watergate hearings, called in deference to the Soviet-American summit talks, has produced so many leaks of information that interest in the testimony to be given Monday by John W. Dean 3d has been sharply heightened.

With help from the White House, Mr. Dean's enemies forced, then publicized, an admission that he took \$4,850 from Nixon campaign funds to pay for his honeymoon last October. The money was later repaid.

Senator Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, the Republican leader who commonly speaks for President Nixon, called Mr. Dean, the former White House counsel, a "turncoat" and an "embezzler" on Wednesday. It was the hardest attack to date on Mr. Dean's credentials as a witness against the Administration.

Mr. Dean's friends, meanwhile were countering with previews of the charges he will make in the televised hearings next week. The counterattacks were aimed at President Nixon, his former special counsel, Charles W. Colson, and at the Watergate committee's ranking Republican, Senator Howard H. Baker Jr. of Tennessee.

## Leaks by Staff

According to summaries by the Watergate committee staff that have been leaked to newsmen, Mr. Dean has already told the Senate investigators that President Nixon knew of the Watergate cover-up by September, 1972, that pressure from Mr. Colson had prompted a promise of executive clemency to E. Howard Hunt Jr., a convicted conspirator, and that Senator Baker, an aggressive questioner in the hearings, had sought White House "guidance" when the Senate investigation was being organized.

Beyond dramatizing the importance that friends and enemies attach to Mr. Dean's testimony, events of the recess week gave observers a variety of clues about the changing tone and tactics of the Water-

gate inquiry.

First, an angry debate within the Senate committee last Tuesday, on whether or not Mr. Dean should be summoned to reappear for more of the customary prehearing staff interviews, signaled an open break in the committee's fragile bipartisanship.

On Tuesday morning, the day that the articles about Mr. Dean's self-administered honeymoon loan appeared, Charles N. Shaffer, his lawyer, told the committee that in protest against the "leak" from last Saturday's interrogation, his client would not come back for further examination before Republican staff members.

## Interview Not Resumed

Senator Baker urged that Mr. Dean be compelled to appear. But the committee Democrats, eager to safeguard their star witness against further embarrassment, refused, with the support of Senator Lowell P. Weicker, Jr., the Connecticut Republican, to subpoena Mr. Dean and the interview was not resumed.

Mr. Baker, uneasy about the public cross-examination of Mr. Dean next Monday, complained yesterday, "Ye aren't prepared for it as we have been with every other witness so far."

But the political message in the byplay was that Mr. Dean and, by implication, his frontal challenge to President Nixon now command overwhelming support within the committee. And Senator Baker, unwilling to be tagged a White House apologist, did not press his fight.

A strong contrary element was the White House activity to discredit Mr. Dean, which surfaced sharply this week and seemed certain to increase.

Early in the week, shortly before Senator Scott's attack on Mr. Dean, the White House gave the Watergate committee a written account of its version of conversations between the President and his former counsel. Sympathetic sources quickly relayed the White House account to the press and the public.

## No Evidence Reported

The five-page White House summary, reportedly prepared by J. Fred Buzhardt, the President's new special counsel on Watergate matters, indicated that as late as March 20 Mr. Dean was telling Mr. Nixon that there was "not a scintilla of evidence" to involve the White House in scandal.

Since the end of February, the White House account said,

the President had pressed Mr. Dean for Watergate clues. But Mr. Dean, according to the White House version, had denied all knowledge—now admitted—of prior planning of the Watergate bugging of Democratic national headquarters last June and concealed what he knew of the cover-up, too.

At least one outside witness has already been recruited to give personal testimony against Mr. Dean's trustworthiness. Edward P. Morgan, a Washington lawyer who gave Mr. Dean his first, abruptly terminated job in the firm of Welsh & Morgan eight years ago, has told friends that a "high official" in the Administration had solicited his help in challenging Mr. Dean's credibility.

Welch & Morgan dismissed the young lawyer early in 1966 and later charged him with "unethical conduct," reportedly because he prepared a competing application against senior partners in the firm for a St. Louis television license.

The week's surge of private and "secret" information into public print from anonymous sources turned Senate staff members against each other and threatened, one said, to make a farce of committee procedure.

When the New York Times first reported Mr. Dean's honeymoon borrowing last Tuesday, Fred Thompson, counsel to the Republican minority on the Watergate committee, was so concerned about the suspicions around him that he demanded—and received—an explicit statement from The Times' reporter that he had not been the source of the article.