

NYT 2/2/73

Watergate Testimony

To the Editor:

Your Feb. 1 editorial "Watergate Conviction" contains a complete distortion of the testimony of Hugh W. Sloan, Jr., as it relates to John N. Mitchell and Maurice H. Stans. It is obvious you had not read the testimony but apparently relied on earlier reports in the news columns of The Times, which were also wrong and distorted.

The transcript of the testimony shows Mr. Sloan, former Treasurer of the Finance Committee to Re-Elect the President, inquired of Mr. Stans whether Jeb S. Magruder could authorize expenditure of campaign funds to Gordon Liddy, then committee counsel.

The transcript further shows that Mr. Sloan was told by Mr. Stans, after consultation with Mr. Mitchell, that Mr. Magruder had continuing and general authority with regard to campaign expenditures. Specific amounts were not discussed. Mr. Magruder had earlier testified that the money he authorized for Mr. Liddy was to be used for legitimate campaign purposes.

To say, as The Times did editorially, that Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Stans "personally approved" the disbursement of \$199,000 to carry out "political espionage" is an absolute perversion of Mr. Sloan's testimony and of the facts in this matter.

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Director of Public Affairs,
Committee for the Re-Election
of the President
Washington, Feb. 1, 1973

An editorial on this subject appears today.