

Ehrlichman Again Places Cover-up Blame on Dean

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LOS ANGELES, June 8—John D. Ehrlichman again placed the blame for the Watergate cover-up on John W. Dean 3d, the former counsel to President Nixon, but his comments today seemed to conflict with those attributed yesterday to his former White House colleague, H. R. Haldeman.

Mr. Ehrlichman, formerly President Nixon's chief domestic advisor, spoke to newsmen after testifying before a Los Angeles County grand jury that is investigating the break-in at the office of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's former psychiatrist. He left abruptly after answering only a few questions.

Mr. Ehrlichman refused to discuss his own grand jury testimony, but in response to another question he said that "to my certain knowledge Mr. Dean conducted an intensive investigation" of the Watergate incident and had been "privy" to information gathered by other sources, principally the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

'Faithfully Imparted'

In the month following the Watergate incident last June, Mr. Ehrlichman went on, "the fruits of that investigation and Mr. Dean's conclusions were faithfully imparted to the President." During this period, Mr. Ehrlichman added, Mr. Dean gave him and other White House aides "repeated assurances" that no Administration personnel had been involved in the Watergate break-in.

On Aug. 29 President Nixon told a news conference that Mr. Dean's investigation had showed that no present White House or Administration personnel were implicated in the break-in.

"I think you have to credit all of us with a justifiable reliance on these assurances," the former White House aide said. It was not until last February, he added, that he began to have "fibrillations of doubt" about Mr. Dean's credibility.

In a deposition released in Washington yesterday, however, Mr. Haldeman said that Mr. Dean "was not supposed to be the chief investigator of the Watergate case" and "had not

submitted any written report" to him or the President.

The deposition, filed in connection with the civil suit resulting from the Watergate break-in, said that Mr. Haldeman and Mr. Ehrlichman, not Mr. Dean, had been the "principal sources" of information for the President.

Mr. Ehrlichman agreed with his former colleague that no written report had been made by Mr. Dean, but he stressed repeatedly his reliance on Mr. Dean's oral reports.

Mr. Dean, however, has insisted that he was never asked for any report and never made one, and that he had been "flabbergasted" when President Nixon invoked his name during that August news conference.

Meanwhile, District Attorney Joseph P. Busch announced that he would file papers Monday to subpoena Egil Krogh Jr., formerly Mr. Ehrlichman's chief assistant. Mr. Krogh has admitted authorizing the break-in at the psychiatrist's office, which took place on Sept. 3, 1971, and had originally agreed to appear here voluntarily. But he has since acquired a new lawyer and is now refusing to come on his own.

The 'Plumbers'

Mr. Krogh directed a White House group called the "plumbers" formed at the direction of President Nixon to stop security leaks from the Administration. One of the chief plumbers, E. Howard Hunt Jr., has admitted leading the break-in at the office of Dr. Lewis Fielding in Veverly Hills.

Mr. Ehrlichman was given over-all responsibility for the group, but has denied knowing about the break-in before it occurred. When he did learn about it, he said, he did not report to any authorities, but merely told the intruders "not to do it again."

In earlier testimony before the grand jury, Gen. Robert E. Cushman Jr., formerly deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, said that Mr. Ehrlichman had called him requesting C.I.A. help for Hunt on a "security" matter. Hunt has admitted using devices provided by the agency in the break-in.