

Excerpts from  
/Statement by Sen. Byrd et end of questioning:

Three: What started out initially to be a "full court press" investigation soon was reduced to an investigation only with respect to the IOC statute; possible violations of other statutes were not pursued, the pretext being that there were no indications of other violations, and that the FBI was not requested to go beyond the IOC statute by the Attorney General's office.

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Five: The repeated absences from Washington at critical times by the FBI Acting Director - for example, during the Southern Airways skyjacking; and often during the Watergate investigation, an investigation which the Acting Director himself recognized initially as an extremely serious matter, one which had every indication of involving people in high positions in the administration.

Six: A handling of the Watergate investigation which has raised serious questions regarding its thoroughness, independence, and objectivity.

Seven: Failure on the part of the FBI Acting Director to demonstrate independence in dealing with John Dean, Counsel to the President, and accepting at face value and almost without question the statements, directions, and requests of John Dean, all of which indicate a pattern either of blind loyalty, faith, and trust in, or subservience to, the White House. Specific examples can be cited:

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(h) Although Dean had Mr. Howard Hunt's property removed from Hunt's office on the night of June 19, 1972, and stored it in his own office until he turned it over to the FBI 6 days later, the FBI Acting Director saw no reason to seriously question Dean's actions, even though Hunt proved to be involved in the Watergate break-in, and even though Dean knew at the time the property was stored in his office that Hunt was being investigated

by the FBI, and even though Dean, during those 6 days, failed to inform the FBI of what had transpired, notwithstanding the fact that Dean talked by telephone six times with the FBI Acting Director and met with the FBI Acting Director on two separate occasions in the latter's office during the 6 days Dean was in possession of Hunt's property.

(i) During the Kleindienst hearings, Mr. Gray turned over to John Dean the famous Dita Beard memorandum which had been entrusted to the FBI by the Judiciary Committee under orders that it not leave the possession of the FBI. The Beard memorandum subsequently to the ITT ~~wizhawk~~ before being returned to the FBI and the Judiciary Committee. Notwithstanding this experience, FBI Acting Director Gray demonstrated an implicit faith in John Dean in turning over to him all FBI raw files requested by Dean with respect to the Watergate break-in. Here again, Mr. Gray acted, in his words, on the "presumption of regularity."

Eight: FBI Acting Director repeatedly stated during the hearings, and as recently as yesterday, that he would continue to turn over FBI raw materials to John Dean as requested. The supplying of FBI raw files to Mr. Dean has continued without questions being raised by Gray even subsequent to August 29, 1972, the date on which President Nixon stated in a press conference in San Clemente, Calif., that "Within our own staff, under my direction, Counsel to the President, Mr. Dean, has conducted a complete investigation of all leads which might involve any present members of the White House staff or anybody in the Government." (Emphasis supplied.

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Thirteen: ...There is too much evidence of political activity on the part of the Acting Director; there is too much evidence of subservience to the White House; there are too many unanswered questions with respect to the possible misuse of FBI files in connection with the Watergate investigation - all of these, together with the foregoing detailed reasons, are sufficient to justify a fear that the FBI could, in the future, become

a White House national police force to be used in political campaigns,  
thus endangering the constitutional liberties of all Americans.