

Dean Tells of Nixon Pressure on IRS

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President Nixon personally instructed John Dean to keep pressing the Internal Revenue Service to investigate a list of McGovern aides and contributors, according to Dean's House Judiciary Committee testimony.

At a meeting with H. R. Haldeman and President Nixon on September 15, 1972, Dean testified, he told the President that IRS Commissioner Johnnie M. Walters and Treasury Secretary George Shultz were refusing to investigate names on the enemies list which Dean gave Walters earlier that week.

"I related this to the President," Dean testified, "And he said something to the ef-

fect of, well, if Shultz thinks he's been put over there to be some sort of candy ass, he is mistaken, and if you have any problems you just come and tell me, and I will get it straightened out."

At another point Dean told the Committee: "I felt as a result of my meeting on September 15 that I had to go back and talk to Johnnie Walters again and see if there could be something done."

Walters' affidavit confirms that Dean did reiterate the request in a telephone call September 25. "I told him again," Walters testified, "that although I would reconsider the matter with Secretary Shultz, any activity of this type would be inviting disaster."

Dean testified that when he first approached Walters

on September 11, he had been told by John Ehrlichman not to use the President's name, but that after the September 15 meeting he believed his authority came directly from President Nixon.

After Commissioner Walters turned him down the second time, Dean testified, he gave up on the plan. "I don't know if the President got back in it or not," Dean added.

A tape of the Sept. 15 conversation exists, but the portion of it dealing with IRS has not been turned over to the House Judiciary Committee.

U.S. District Judge John Sirica, who originally ordered that portion withheld as not relevant to the Watergate break-in or cover-up, reversed himself June 12

and ordered the IRS segment to be given to Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski.

That order, however, is under appeal.

Dean testified that the key conversation with President Nixon is definitely on the withheld portion of the tape. "The first time I read these tapes I immediately reacted," Dean testified. "I said, well, where is the rest of the conversation because I remember it very vividly."

In a related development, the Senate yesterday voted to deny White House aides access to tax returns. The amendment, offered by Sen. Lowell Weicker (R-Conn.) and approved by voice vote, provides that only the President, by personal written request, may see confidential tax records.