

Defense gets chance at Dean testimony

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WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense lawyers get their chance this week to attack the testimony of former White House Counsel John W. Dean III at the Watergate cover-up trial.

The prosecutors expect to conclude their questioning of Dean on Monday or Tuesday, at the latest.

Early in his testimony, Dean corrected the one error that caused him trouble when he was a witness before the Senate Watergate committee.

At the committee hearing in June, 1973, Dean had told of meeting with Herbert W. Kalmbach, Nixon lawyer and fundraiser, at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington. They discussed the need to raise money for the Watergate break-in defendants.

Dean gave the committee a detailed account of their conversation. But there was one flaw: he had the wrong hotel.

Dean actually had met Kalmbach at the Mayflower Coffee Shop in the Statler-Hilton Hotel.

When he described that meeting at the cover-up trial, he was careful to give the correct location.

The names of each of the five defendants cropped up in his testimony.

He told about frequent meetings after the June 17, 1972, break-in at which one or more of the defendants was active in arranging for payments to the defendants or in coming up with a false story for the FBI or the grand jury.

And he told of offers of clemency relayed to the Watergate burglars with the approval of defendants John D. Ehrlichman and John N. Mitchell.

According to Dean, H. R. Haldeman, another defendant, knew that money from a \$350,000 fund he controlled was being used to meet demands from the Watergate defendants.

That fund caused an exchange that symbolized the prevailing defense strategy of each man for himself.

When prosecutor James F. Neal referred to the \$350,000 as the "White House fund," William S. Frates, Ehrlichman's lawyer, objected.

That name would imply that Ehrlichman had something to do with it, complained Frates.

John J. Wilson, Haldeman's lawyer stood up:

"Well, let's not call it the Haldeman fund."

Dean finally settled the matter by saying it commonly was referred to in the White House as the "\$350,000 fund."