

# Cover-up tapes reveal Nixon worried about Dean recorder

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WASHINGTON (AP) — After 6½ weeks of hearing 26 witnesses and more than 20 hours of White House tapes, the prosecution in the Watergate cover-up trial is ready to rest its case.

Four final prosecution witnesses, including former White House aide Egil "Bud" Krogh, are scheduled to testify today before the defense begins its case, probably on Monday.

In White House tapes presented Thursday, former President Richard M. Nixon was heard at least five times expressing worry that former White House counsel John W. Dean III may have secretly carried a tape recorder under his armpit during a March 21, 1973 meeting. Dean and Nixon talked at that meeting about paying money to the original Watergate defendants.

Concerned because Dean had begun cooperating with Watergate investigators in early April 1973, Nixon

asked coverup defendant H.R. Haldeman on the evening of April 25 if there was any way Dean "might have walked in there (to the White House Oval Office) with a recorder on him?"

Haldeman dismisses the likelihood, but Nixon persists in examining the possibility because he was curious about what Dean may have told prosecutors about the March 21 discussion of \$1 million in potential hush money requirements.

Nixon presses Haldeman on how a tape recorder might be hidden and not be seen.

"I'd think that it's a little, it's, it's, even the smallest ones are bulky enough that you mean, with a fellow like Dean you'd sort of see that, wouldn't you? Where do you carry them, in your hip pocket or your breast pocket?"

Haldeman: "Oh, under your arm, you know, where they carry a pistol holster or something."