

Dean Testimony

'Watergate Gold'

Washington

Reports of a multi-million Aztec treasure supposedly buried on the White Sands, N.M., rocket range came up before the Watergate hearing yesterday.

The gold cache was alluded to by John W. Dean III when he described a luncheon meeting that included former Attorney General John Mitchell and H. R. Haldeman, White House chief of staff.

In testimony before the Senate Watergate commit-

tee * Dean said Mitchell raised the fact that criminal lawyer F. Lee Bailey "had a problem he would like to bring up."

Dean quoted Mitchell as saying "Bailey had a client who had an enormous amount of gold in his possession and would like to make an arrangement with the government whereby the gold could be turned over to the government without the client being prosecuted for holding the gold." Dean said, however, that Haldeman "was non-responsive

and the matter was dropped."

Federal law prohibits private citizens from possessing pure gold.

Bailey's clients proposed to deliver 292 bars of gold, each weighing 80 pounds to the Treasury Department, a spokesman for Bailey said after the testimony. He added that Bailey's client said the gold was part of an Aztec treasure that is hidden on the White Sands Proving Grounds.

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* Ervin Committee hearings, Book 3, p. 1001, paragraph 3.