

CBS News, 10 a.m. (?), Reed Collins.

The Watergate affair continues to be the headline in Washington. Correspondent Robert Pierpoint has the latest from the White House.

Pierpoint: A widening breach has appeared here today between President Nixon and his counsel, John Dean, over the Watergate scandal. This morning Dean issued a statement declaring that "Some may hope or think that I will become a scapegoat in the Watergate case. Anyone," Dean added, "who believes this does not know me, know the true facts, nor understand our system of justice."

Later presidential spokesman Ronald Ziegler disclosed that neither he nor the President knew about Dean's statement in advance and in an obvious rebuke to Dean, Ziegler declared the process now in motion is not a process to find a scapegoat but a process to find the truth. [Unclear if this is an actual quotation.] Asked if Dean is still on the job here, Ziegler said, "He is in his office." Then Ziegler added somewhat sarcastically, "I don't know what he's doing - attending to business of some sort, I suppose." Ziegler declined comment again today on other aspects of the Watergate scandal.

Robert Pierpoint, CBS News, at the White House

Collins: These other drops from the Watergate today. Attorney General Kleindienst withdrew from the investigation because it involves people with whom he's had a personal and professional relationship. The Washington Post said early today that the former GOP campaign official, Jeb Magruder, is telling federal uauthorities that John Mitchell and John Dean approved and planned the Watergate bugging. In New York City, John Mitchell smiled and said, "This thing's getting sillier as it goes along."

[End of item.]