

Nixon Aides Implicated by Dean, Report

Examiner News Services

WASHINGTON—John Dean, President Nixon's legal counsel, gave federal prosecutors information two weeks ago suggesting that both H. R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman knew of efforts to cover up the Watergate bugging, columnist Jack Anderson said today.

Dean "made accusations" against the two top assistants to Nixon after being confronted by Ehrlichman with allegations that Dean knew of the bugging and then tried to cover it up, Anderson wrote in his column.

Principal assistant U.S. Attorney Earl J. Silbert, who prosecuted seven men previously indicted in the case, refused a request by Dean for immunity from prosecution, Anderson said.

Anderson said that Dean also made accusations about former Attorney General John Mitchell and Jeb Magruder, the director and deputy director of the 1972 Nixon re-election organization, and that Magruder was called in by the prosecutors and told of Dean's charges.

"This broke down Magruder, who also confessed his role in the conspiracy," Anderson wrote.

Met Lawyers.....

Meanwhile, the White House said that Nixon met yesterday for a second time with John Wilson, the lawyer retained by Haldeman and Ehrlichman to represent them in the Watergate case.

Presidential Press Secretary Ronald Ziegler also said Wilson met again today with Haldeman and Ehrlichman.

Anderson did not identify the source of his information and today stopped use of testimony given to the Watergate grand jury after saying the prosecutors convinced him the publication of the secret material was ham-

pering their investigation.

Anderson has refused to divulge his source for the verbatim transcripts of the testimony and federal judges ordered an investigation of the leak.

Confrontation Told

In today's column, Anderson said, Dean went to the prosecutors April 14 after he "put together some documents he had been saving, which indicated both H. R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman had knowledge of the Watergate cover-up."

Anderson said Dean's action came a day after Ehrlichman confronted Dean

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with "information that (1) Dean had advance knowledge of the Watergate bugging; (2) Dean had ordered Hunt (E. Howard Hunt, who subsequently pleaded guilty as a conspirator) out of the country; and (3) Dean had authorized payments to the Watergate conspirators to keep their mouth shut."

Nixon originally assigned Dean to investigate whether any White House aides had a

part in the Watergate plot. Anderson said that by mid-March, "the President's faith in Dean began to waver" and he instructed him to go to Camp David and prepare a written report on his investigation.

"After a few days at the presidential retreat, Dean reported back to the President that he simply couldn't write a report," Anderson wrote. "Angrily, Mr. Nixon took Dean off the Watergate case."

Nixon announced last week he was conducting a fresh, personal investigation of the matter. Informed

sources said today he was still "sortnig out" the impact of the scandal and moving toward a major staff overhaul.

The sources said Haldeman, among others, is expected to leave.

Flat Denial

Melvin Laird, former defense secretary, has been mentioned along with former Treasury Secretary John Connally and Secretary of State William Rogers as possible men to whom Nixon might turn to reorganize the staff.

But today Ziegler denied flatly a report that the President had asked Laird to join the White House staff. A source close to Laird also denied yesterday that such an offer had been made.

Laird himself has said he isn't available for such a task.

Ziegler said that neither the President nor anyone acting on his authority had approached anyone with the aim of recruiting them to replace present staff members or direct any housecleaning.