

Dean's Bid To Involve CIA Told

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Washington

The deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency was quoted as saying that John W. Dean III, the ousted White House counsel, asked the agency last year to help cover up the Watergate case by paying bail and salaries for the men involved.

According to Senator Stuart Symington, Lieutenant General Vernon Walters told the Senate Armed Services Committee that he had threatened to quit rather than involve the agency in such a scheme.

Symington, a Missouri Democrat who is acting chairman of the committee, issued a statement summarizing testimony by Walters to the committee at a closed hearing Monday.

The statement said Walters had told the committee that H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, two other White House aides who have resigned in the Watergate scandal, sought to get the CIA to call off an FBI inquiry last year of Nixon re-election funds that had been "laundered" in a Mexico city bank.

REFUSALS

The general said that the agency had turned down both White House requests, according to the Symington statement.

The two events, the statement said, occurred in late June and early July of last year, following the June 17

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\$11,000 in cash, were sent to Washington, along with other campaign funds, in a satchel.

The checks were turned over to G. Gordon Liddy, then serving as counsel to the finance arm of the re-

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break-in at Democratic headquarters in the Watergate complex.

But even as late as January or February of this year, according to the general's testimony, Dean again sought CIA help in retrieving from the FBI "some materials" that had been sent to the bureau regarding CIA help given E. Howard Hunt Jr. for use in a break-in at the office of Daniel Ellsberg's former psychiatrist.

"It is very clear to me," Symington said, in releasing the summary, "that there was an attempt to unload major responsibility for the Watergate bugging and coverup on the CIA."

Further inquiries into possible involvement by the agency in the widening Watergate scandals will be made when Richard M. Helms, director of the agency at the time involved, is questioned today and tomorrow.

Helms, now ambassador to Iran, is scheduled to appear today before a Senate appropriations subcommittee investigating a CIA involvement in Watergate and tomorrow before the Armed Service Committee.

According to the summary, Walters said that he had been called to the White House by Dean last June 27.

There, the summary says, Dean asked if the CIA could provide bail or pay the salaries of the five individuals accused in the Watergate break-in while they were in jail.

Walters was quoted as saying that he told Dean there was no way such a thing could be done and that any internal expenditure of funds by the agency must be reported to House and Senate oversight committees.

Walters also told Dean, the summary says, that to spend funds in such a way would implicate the agency and that he would quit rather than do such a thing.

The general reportedly testified that Dean called him to the White House again the next day and asked if there could not have been some CIA involvement

election committee, who was to convert the checks into cash.

Liddy sent them to Bernard L. Barker in Miami, who in turn placed them in his own bank in Miami. Most of the cash proceeds,

that the general did not know about. The general said he replied that there could not have been.

At one point, the statement continued, Dean asked Walters if he had any ideas and the general replied that yes, a he had an idea — that anyone who was responsible should be fired.

The alleged attempt to involve the agency in providing a "cover" for the five men caught, and later convicted, of the break-in apparently was prompted by the fact that two of them, Hunt and James W. McCord, had once been employed by the CIA.

In detailing events involving the "laundered" campaign funds, Walters reportedly told the committee that last June 23 he and Helms met at the White House with Haldeman and Ehrlichman.

He was quoted as saying that Haldeman expressed concern that the Watergate break-in might be exploited by the opposition (an apparent reference to the Democratic Party) and that it had been decided that Walters should attempt to get the FBI to cease its investigation of the campaign funds, in the interest of national security.

Walters said, according to the summary, that he was told by Haldeman to tell L. Patrick Gray III, at that time acting director of the FBI, that further investigation of the fund issue would compromise certain CIA activities and resources in Mexico.

While Helms was present during this meeting, he apparently was bypassed, and it is not yet known if he raised any objection to such a request.

The summary continues with the following:

Walters testified that an appointment was made with Gray during that meeting and that just an hour later he went to see Gray.

He said that he told Gray that certain senior persons at the White House — he did not specify who — had told him that pursuit of the bureau's investigation would uncover some of the CIA's clandestine activities in Mexico. He said Gray replied he was aware that the agency and FBI did not uncover one another's sources and operations (that is, re-

in \$100 bills, were then returned to Washington and placed in the safe of Maurice H. Stans, the chief fund-raiser for the committee.

More than \$200,000, includ-

veal or interfere with each other.)

Walters said that, however, upon his return to his agency he checked and discovered that the bureau's investigation of the Mexican financial affair would not compromise any CIA activities.

DECISION

The summary says that Walters testified that on June 26, he again went to the White House, upon the request of Dean. There, he said, he told Dean that after looking into the matter, he had decided that the CIA would not be compromised by the FBI inquiry.

The general reportedly testified that on July 5, about two weeks after the meeting with Haldeman and Ehrlichman, Gray called him and said that he could not stop the FBI investigation of the Mexicans funds unless he received a letter from the CIA stating that the inquiry would damage the agency's assets in Mexico.

According to that summary, Walters said that the following day, he went to see Gray and told him that the investigation would not endanger any CIA assets. He said he then told Gray of the meeting two weeks earlier, this time disclosing the names of Ehrlichman and Haldeman, and saying that he had been ordered to try to stop the FBI investigation.

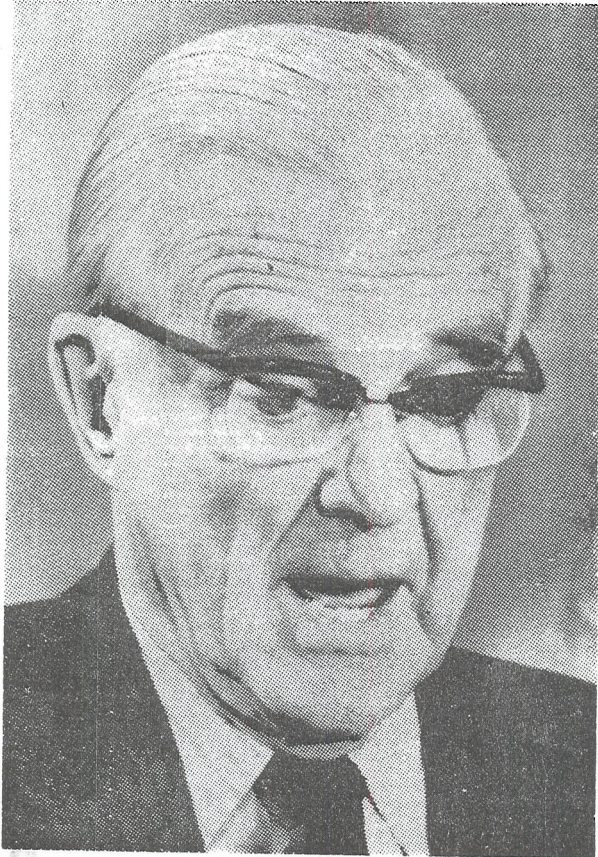
Gray reportedly told Senate investigators last week that on that same day he mentioned to President Nixon in a brief telephone conversation that there was some confusion about the role of White House aides in the Watergate investigation and that their actions could cause trouble for the President.

FUNDS

The FBI investigation of the campaign funds channeled through Mexico involved \$89,000 of the \$100,000 contribution made last year to the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President by Robert H. Allen, president of the Gulf Resources and Chemical Corp. of Houston.

The \$89,000 was in the form of four checks, drawn on City. These checks, plus payable to a lawyer in Mexico City, these checks, plus

ing the funds given by Allen, were paid to Liddy to finance various Watergate activities. A number of \$100 bills were found on the five men arrested at the Watergate.



AP Wirephoto

DEMOCRATIC SENATOR STUART SYMINGTON
'An attempt to unload major responsibility'