

The Day's Developments

NYTimes

MAY 16 1973

The White House inquiry: White House sources said President Nixon received last year only an informal oral report through his then chief of staff, John D. Ehrlichman, concerning a White House inquiry into the Watergate break-in. Mr. Nixon ordered an investigation shortly after the incident, and Mr. Ehrlichman delegated the task to the former White House counsel, John W. Dean 3d, the sources said. They asserted that it was after Mr. Ehrlichman's oral report that Mr. Nixon said last August that Mr. Dean had conducted a "complete investigation" showing that no one in his Administration "was involved in this very bizarre incident."

Watergate and the C.I.A.—Lieut. Gen. Vernon Walters, Deputy Director of Intelligence, reportedly told a Senate committee that Mr. Dean had asked the agency to help cover-up the Watergate break-in by paying bail and salaries for those involved. General Walters also was said to have testified that two other White House aides, John D. Ehrlichman and H. R. Haldeman, had sought to get the C.I.A. to halt an F.B.I. inquiry into Nixon re-election funds. Both requests were rejected, the general said.

Security wiretaps: Washington informants said President Nixon personally authorized telephone taps on more than a dozen subordinates on the National Security Council and in the Pentagon in 1969 after The New York Times reported that B-52 bombers were striking in Cambodia. F.B.I. reports on the overheard conversations went to Mr. Nixon's national security adviser, Henry A. Kissinger, and to Mr. Kissinger's deputy, Gen. Alexander M. Haig, now interim White House chief of staff.

The Senate investigation: The Watergate investigating committee, set to open hearings tomorrow, moved ahead with plans to obtain immunity from prosecution for Mr. Dean, although Federal prosecutors are said to believe that this would complicate their case. The Senate panel, meeting in closed session, also took similar steps to obtain immunity for a witness said to have moved cartons of documents from the White House shortly after the Watergate break-in.

Special prosecutor: Federal Judge Harold R. Tyler Jr. of New York, Attorney General-designate Elliot L. Richardson's first choice to be special prosecutor in the Watergate case, declined the post because it would have forced him to leave the bench.

Details on Pages 1, 26, 27 and 28.