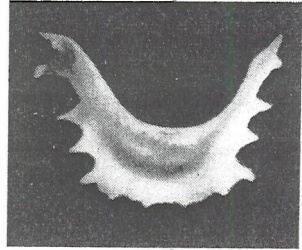


The Tools of Watergate

THE arrested Watergate burglars were well equipped with spying and break-in gear, as shown by the tools and papers confiscated from them by Washington police. Among the items seized, counterclockwise from lower right: metal mouthpiece that disguises the voice when speaking on the telephone; Social Security card with phony name, used by Conspirator E. Howard Hunt Jr.; tape, screwdriver, pliers, flashlight and other burglar's tools. Lower left: phone numbers found on a Watergate conspirator listing Hunt's White House number. This was one of the primary clues that led police to trace the break-in plot to the White House.



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but he also ignored the warning of the nation's highest police official.

► John W. Dean III, the President's counsel who was abruptly fired by Nixon on April 30, contends that the President asked him to sign a resignation and a confession that he, Dean, alone had tried to conceal the White House involvement in Watergate. Dean refused. Moreover, he insists that he never gave Nixon a report that cleared all of his aides of involvement. That would make an outright lie of Nixon's press-conference statement of last Aug. 29 that Dean's investigation had produced such a conclusion—unless someone above Dean had misled the President.

► Convicted Wiretapper James W. McCord Jr. contends that unnamed high officials urged that the defendants in the Watergate wiretapping case claim that the operation was directed and authorized by the Central Intelligence Agency. Attorneys handling the case felt that top CIA officials would maintain "a discreet silence" and would go along with this defense.

► Before the Government's case against Pentagon Papers Defendants Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony Russo was thrown out of court (see page 28), unnamed Justice Department officials said that Nixon twice in the past three weeks had tried to keep the department from informing Judge William Matthew Byrne Jr. that the office of Ellsberg's psychiatrist had been broken into by covert agents operating on orders from people in the White House. Nixon reluctantly agreed to pass along this information only after high Justice Department officials repeatedly advised him that the Los Angeles court had every right to know.

► TIME has traced the missing records of FBI wiretaps, including the interception of a Daniel Ellsberg conversation in 1971 that contributed to the dismissal of the Pentagon papers case.

On the orders of Robert C. Mardian, then an Assistant Attorney General, the records were taken from the files of FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover by one of his deputies, William Sullivan, and turned over to Mardian. They went from Mardian to the White House office of John Ehrlichman, chief domestic affairs adviser. Whether they were destroyed, which would be a criminal offense, or are still in the White House is not known. TIME also learned that summaries of the conversations picked up by these taps, which were on the telephones of some newsmen and Administration officials, were sent by the FBI to the office of H.R. Haldeman, White House chief of staff.

► The Watergate contamination spread ever more widely as it was revealed that—in response to requests from White House officials—the CIA and the State Department had helped Convicted Wiretapper E. Howard Hunt Jr. carry out covert activities. These involved either the investigation of Ellsberg or the fabrication of cables falsely implicating President John Kennedy in the assassination of South Viet Nam's President Ngo Dinh Diem in 1963.

To sift these and other conflicting claims of guilt, innocence and complicity, the Ervin committee intends to begin in a low-key, methodical manner. The first witness will be Robert C. Odle Jr., Director of Administration for the Nixon re-election committee, who will describe how the committee was set up and operated. Next will be one of the policemen who discovered the five men hiding sheepishly behind a desk in an office at Democratic headquarters at 2 a.m. on June 17. Then some of the convicted conspirators will tell their now-familiar stories of how and why they bugged, burgled and bungled. Another early witness will be Sally Harmony, secretary to Convicted Wiretapper G. Gordon Liddy. She will tell about

typing summaries of the illegally intercepted Democratic conversations.

The most compelling early witness will be Convicted Conspirator McCord. His sensational charges that high officials had ordered the wiretapping, then paid the arrested men to plead guilty and keep quiet, helped break the case wide open. Some of his charges have since been at least partly corroborated by others who have testified to the grand jury or Senate investigators.

Probably the next most volatile early witness will be Hugh Sloan Jr., who was treasurer of the Nixon re-election committee at the time of the wiretapping. He has claimed that at least two higher officials urged him to lie to the grand jury about payments to the Watergate conspirators. The officials, said Sloan in a sworn deposition, were Jeb Stuart Magruder, Nixon's deputy campaign manager, and Frederick LaRue, an assistant at the re-election committee. This happened within a few weeks of the Watergate arrests, Sloan claims. When he tried to warn John Ehrlichman about this, the President's adviser told him that he did not want to hear about it. Sloan says he also tried to tell Dwight Chapin, then Nixon's appointments secretary, but Chapin brushed him off, saying: "The important thing is to protect the President."

Perhaps weeks later will come the potentially explosive testimony of fired Counsel John Dean—if arrangements can be made by the Ervin committee to grant him some kind of immunity against prosecution in return for his story. Dean insists that he can directly implicate Nixon in the massive cover-up that followed the Watergate break-in. That may put such later and climactic witnesses as ousted White House Aides Ehrlichman and Haldeman even more on the defensive. Also late in the order of witnesses are Stans and Mitchell.

The hearings, which will be held in