

By Seymour M. Hersh
N.Y. Times Service

Washington

and was placed in sole on in mid-April. charge by President Nixquiry for nearly a year conduct of Henry E. prosecution team has devised torney general who supertersen, the assistant atcided to investigate the The Watergate special the Watergate in-Pe-

that Petersen was, at best, totally misled by his supewhether Petersen was inriors in the White House. At issue, these sources said, is of the Watergate record thus said that the team's review prosecutor Archibald Cox far had left "no question" Sources close to special

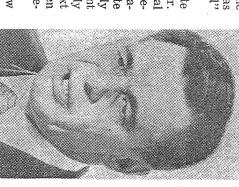
that he was one of the highernment service and the fact rity during 25 years of gov-Petersen's record for integvolved in the coverup. est-ranking Other investigators, citing

> said that they believe he by the White House. one official put it, "gulled" was a "victim" who was, as

phone. case. It was subsequently tion" discussed the case by telehad decided to work directly disclosed that the President picted as a "new investigacommand of what was de-Nixon had taken personal few weeks the two men often with Petersen. Over the next House announced that Mr On April 17, the White into the Watergate

at all." yesterday, Petersen vigorinvestigation with anybody "I did not compromise this ously denied any involvement in a coverup and said In a telephone interview

cept that "everybody would Petersen said angrily, exthat he was furious with the Nixon administration for its from government service, handling of the case. He would immediately retire But he also acknowledged



HENRY E. PETERSEN did not compromise

ment today." gate figure left the governreport that 'another Water-

former White House counsel, collected thus far showed that John W. Dean III, the tor said that the evidence One government investiga-

or at the direction of others had most misled him. tersen, and the official who dealt most directly with Pewas the official who had - either of his own volition

scope of the department's House cover-up through potion to help steer the White criminal investigation and tion about the theory and Petersen last year informapartment sources said, who tential trouble areas. then utilized that informarequested and received from It was Dean, Justice De-

in the Watergate complex at his ability to "keep the lid on." Only the five men National Committee offices superiors had been pleased ment of involvement. were accused in the indictperiors, E. Howard Hunt Jr., and G. Gordon Liddy, Dean was quoted by associates as believing that his and their two immediate suseized inside the Democratic Only the five men

Asked about this, Petersen

said: "If you are asking me whether I discussed this investigation with Dean, hardly had to. He had the give him any details. Hell, I answer is yes. But I didn't

the

Trosecutor

yes." in this case? the answer is "But did I feel the pressure "Dean never tried to pressure me," Petersen added.

himself."

(FBI) investigative reports

· immediate superior in the Justice Department, and days of the break-in and arrests last June 17. At one er-ups were involved in the warned: the attorney general and his Watergate bugging within Richard G. Kleindienst, then point, he related, he went to He said he realized high-

thing in mind. I ain't going to jail for this, and if you're one yourself." smart, you'll stay out of this "Brother Dick, keep one

Department and other high-level Justice It is the fact that Petersen officials sus-

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ry that has prompted suspipected that high political figures were behind the burgla-

vestigators about Petersen's cion among Cox and his in-11 11 11