

Dean Insists Nixon Misled  
The Nation on Watergate

## Fired Counsel Claims

### His Charges Are Factual--

### 'I Have One Ally, Truth'

#### Washington

John W. Dean III said yesterday, in a new clash with the White House, that President Nixon has misled the nation in his public statements on the Watergate case, and he insisted that his charges of presidential complicity in a Watergate coverup are factual.

The former White House counsel asserted, toward the end of a daylong cross-examination by the Senate Watergate investigating committee, that Mr. Nixon had been "less than accurate" in a May 22 denial of involvement in the Watergate affair.

Further, in a lengthy colloquy with Senator Joseph M. Montoya (Dem-N.M.), Dean disputed most of the presidential explanations of the Watergate burglary, describing them as misleading, unfounded or overly "broad."

Dean's steadfast adherence to the accusations contained in the 245-page statement that he read Monday to the Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities posed an immediate — and potentially crucial — conflict with the White House.

In San Clemente, a presidential spokesman said Mr. Nixon would stand on a May 22 statement reiterating his innocence.

Dean acknowledged, during rambling and rarely sharp cross-examination, that he was in the position of presenting his word, as a 34-year-old deposed White House lawyer, against that of the President.

#### INVOLVEMENT

But he insisted that his only motive in testifying was to end his personal involvement in the coverup and to request for his knowledge of

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respond to the committee's request for his knowledge of it.

"What makes you think that your credibility is greater than that of the President, who denies what you have said?" asked Senator Herman E. Talmadge (Dem-Ga.)

"Well, senator," Dean replied, "I have been asked to come up here and tell the truth. I have told it exactly the way I know it."

#### CHARGE

Under close questioning by Fred Thompson, the committee's Republican counsel, Dean backed down yesterday from his suggestion Monday that Henry Petersen, an assistant attorney general, had acted improperly when he was in charge of the government's Watergate investigation.

And Dean flatly declared that Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, had not been told the truth about Watergate and thus had not deliberately misled the media during the ten months in which he denied any White House involvement in the case.

But Dean added new charges yesterday of efforts within the Nixon administration to use governmental investigative agencies improperly.

He said the White House had maintained, and constantly updated, an "enemies list" of individuals unfriendly to the administration.

#### CREDIBILITY

The bulk of Dean's first day of questioning by the Senate committee — he will return for more questions today — dealt with the credibility of his long monologue Monday in which he alleged participation of the President, the White House, the Committee for the Re-election of the President, the Department of Justice and various individuals in a "mas-

sive" coverup of administrative involvement in the Watergate affair.

With almost stoic repose, Dean sat placidly replying to questions that alternately appeared aimed at bolstering or trying to poke holes in his earlier testimony.

He told Samuel Dash, the committee's Democratic chief counsel, that, in his opinion, Haldeman would have been advised in advance of the plans to wiretap the Democratic Party offices

in the Watergate office complex last year and that Haldeman "probably would have reported it" to the President. But Dean balked later when Dash sought to elicit his opinion as to whether Mr. Nixon had been advised by aides of the coverup at its inception.

#### QUESTIONS

Dean agreed with Dash's leading questions, in which Dash suggested that from last September 15 on, Dean had had no doubt about the participation of the President in the coverup effort.

Dean testified Monday that on September 15 the President had congratulated him on his efforts to guarantee that federal grand jury indictments in the Watergate case handed down that day had not reached any but the seven individuals first arrested.

The tone of Dean's persistent declarations yesterday that he had told the truth was set in this exchange with Dash:

DASH: I guess you are fully aware, Mr. Dean, of the gravity of the charges you have made under oath against the highest official of our land, the President of the United States.

DEAN: Yes, I am.

DASH: And being so aware, do you still stand on your statement?

DEAN: Yes, I do.

Dean maintained the same position throughout the interrogation. He said that he had waited until April 15 to begin telling what he knew to government prosecutors

because "I was hopeful the President himself would step forward and tell of his involvement in some of these things."

He said he realized that the 47 documents he submitted to the Senate committee Monday did not deal directly with his conversations with the President and that he had no evidence to support his assertions.

Some of the sharpest interrogation of Dean was conducted by Thompson. At one point, Thompson apologized if he appeared to be "badgering you in any way" as he explored the possibility that Dean had offered his testimony in hope of gaining immunity from criminal prosecution.

"In fact," Dean said to Thompson, "if I were still at the White House I would probably be feeding you the questions to ask the person who is sitting here."

Thompson retorted, "If I were here, as I am, I would have responded that I do not need questions to be fed to me from anybody."

#### SCOPE

It was Thompson who elicited from Dean the statement that he had not meant to imply on Monday that Petersen had acted unethically in providing information to the White House about the scope and conduct of the government's probe of the Watergate case last year.

"I know of no impropriety," Dean said of Petersen's dealings with the White House. "I think he tried to be very fair."

Talmadge, expressing incredulity at Dean's description of his role, asked why he had not gone directly to the President last June, a few days after the Watergate break-in, when he had learned of the extent of the coverup that already was under way.

"Senator, I did not have access to the President," Dean replied. "I never was presumptuous enough to try to pound on the door and get in because I knew that just did not work that way."

Moments later, Talmadge said he would have thought it "incumbent upon you, as counsel to the President, to make every effort to see that he got that information at that time."

"Senator," said Dean. "I was participating in the coverup at that time."

New York Times



*AP Wirephoto*

**JOHN DEAN ANSWERED QUESTIONS:  
'I have only one ally and that is the truth.'**