

Dean Says Nixon  
Misled Nation With  
His Denials on  
Watergate; White  
House Reaffirms  
Stand

## STATEMENT CITED

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### Aide Refers Reporters to Rebuttal by the President May 22

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By JOHN HERBERS

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SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., June 26—The White House said today that President Nixon stood by his May 22 statement on the Watergate case, which conflicts with sworn testimony of John W. Dean 3d that the President was involved in the cover-up.

"We stand behind that statement," Gerald L. Warren, deputy White House press secretary, repeated several times during intense questioning as to how the President would respond to Mr. Dean's testimony before the Senate Watergate committee. That testimony was first to implicate the President directly in the White House conspiracy to cover up crimes of burglary and bugging and other acts of political espionage.

In the May statement, Mr. Nixon said that although there had apparently been wide-ranging efforts by members of his Administration to cover up the break-in, "I was not aware of any such efforts at the time."

"Neither, until after I began my own investigation, on March 21, was I aware of any fund raising for defendants convicted of the break-in at Democratic headquarters, much less authorize any such fund raising," he said. "Nor did I authorize any offer of executive clemency for any of the defendants.

#### No Direct Comment

Mr. Warren, however, would not comment directly on the Dean testimony, saying that the White House was continuing in its intention announced yesterday of having no reaction for the rest of this week to what transpires before the committee in Washington.

He left the impression that the President was more concerned with carrying out his duties on domestic and foreign affairs than with the Watergate case. Mr. Nixon worked in his office this morning, conferring with Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., White House chief of staff, and other aides.

Was Mr. Nixon not worried about the charges made against him? Mr. Warren was asked

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repeatedly.

He would not respond directly, but he said that when he talked to the President this morning he appeared to be in a "very good mood."

"His mood is a subjective thing," Mr. Warren said at another point. "He was talking about the events that would be taking place here at the Western White House. He was discussing meetings he would be having, with determination, talking about those matters. I construed from my discussion with him that his mood is good."

The President was not watching television or listening to the testimony on the radio, Mr. Warren said, but was, as was explained yesterday, receiving summary reports through his aides.

When Mr. Warren would not say what the President planned to do in regard to the Dean testimony, he was asked if, despite that testimony, Mr. Nixon still stood by his statement of May 22, which sought to explain the President's position. Mr. Warren said emphatically that he did.

As for the investigation that Mr. Nixon said in his statement that he began on March 21, Mr. Dean said in his testimony that the President had not conducted any such investigation.

"Rather, the President, Haldeman and Ehrlichman commenced to protect themselves against the unraveling of the cover-up," he said.

He was referring to the former White House aides John D.

Ehrlichman and R. H. Halde-

man. He also quoted the President as saying that E. Howard Hunt Jr., one of the Watergate conspirators, had been offered executive clemency in return for his silence.

#### Flurry of Publicity

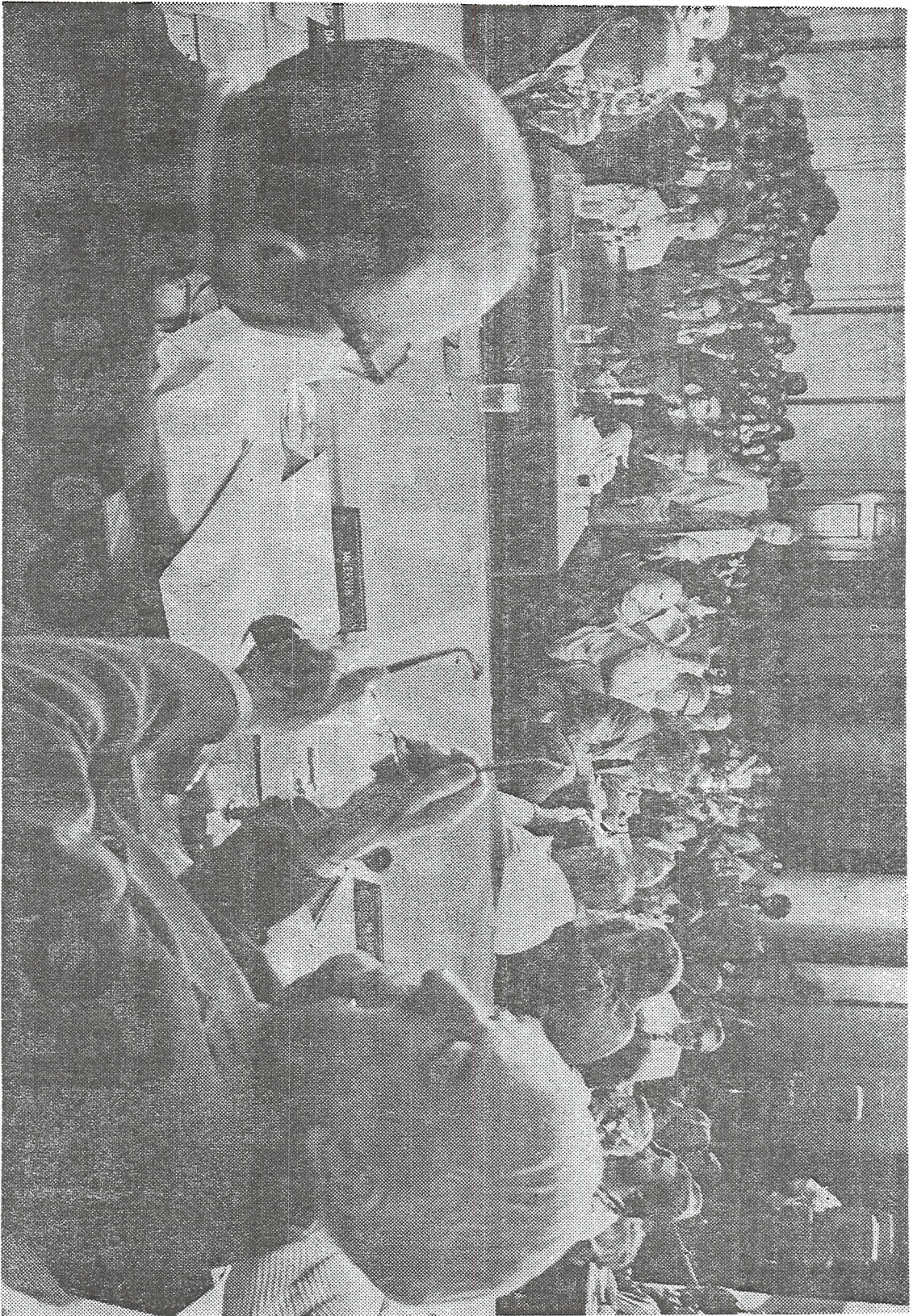
While the President was in seclusion 3,000 miles from the Washington hearings, there was a flurry of publicity here about the recent statements by the General Services Administration that the Federal Government had spent more than \$703,000 on the President's San Clemente estate.

Documents recently released by the G.S.A. showed that even though the Secret Service justified the improvements on the President's Spanish-style home and grounds as related to security, there were such items as those for landscaping and landscaping maintenance totaling \$132,852.

Mr. Warren, asked how the President justified such public expenses, said that all had been dictated by security and carried out by the G.S.A.

"The President was unaware of much if not all of this," Mr. Warren said. "It was done not at his request but by the G.S.A. on his behalf."

Asked how the expenditure of \$4,834 to furnish the President's study in the home, as distinguished from the President's office, in the Government complex next door could be related to security, Mr. Warren said, "He uses it to conduct the business of the Presidency."



Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., right, chairman of the committee, and Samuel Dash, chief counsel, conferring during Mr. Dean's testimony

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