

That Payment Of 'Hush Money'

Washington *AP*

The special Watergate prosecutors' evidence that the final Watergate coverup "hush money" payment was made on the evening of March 21, 1973, about 12 hours after President Nixon has claimed he expressed disapproval of the payment scheme, has been revealed by informed sources.

In recent interviews, Mr. Nixon's lawyers have disputed the date of the \$75,000 payment because, according to several informed sources, its authorization and delivery on March 21, coupled with the tape-recorded White House meeting on the subject earlier that day, could be used as evidence that Mr. Nixon was part of the coverup conspiracy.

The key to establishing the date of the payment was a dinner attended by former Nixon campaign aides Fred C. LaRue and Manon M. Millican, along with a personal friend of LaRue's who was visiting from out of town for only one day, the day that LaRue remembered transferring \$75,000 after dinner.

Credit card records of travel expenses and hotel expenses and hotel accommodations of LaRue's friend firmly established the date of that visit and the dinner as March 21.

After the dinner that evening, Millican, 47, who was in charge of voter canvass-



FRED C. LaRUE
 The date established

ing in the 1972 Nixon re-election campaign, was given a plain envelope by LaRue and asked to deliver it in person to an address in the Maryland suburbs. Millican did not know what the envelope contained or what the purpose was of its delivery, the sources said, and thus was an unwitting messenger in illegal activity.

The address in the Maryland suburbs was the home of William O. Bittman, attorney for Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt Jr.

The envelope contained \$75,000, mostly in \$100 bills taken from a fund managed by LaRue for payments to the Watergate conspirators, according to later testimony before the Senate Watergate Committee.