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White House Charged With Watergate Coverup Attempt

CHARGED

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Watergate.

Gray did say in his Senate testimony, however, that Ehrlichman and presidential counsel John W. Dean III called him on the carpet following news leaks regarding the FBI's Watergate investigation.

The prosecutor in the Watergate case, Earl J. Silbert, has told friends privately that Atty. Gen. Richard G. Kleindienst once called him into his office early in the Watergate investigation and told him to "go slow" in returning indictments.

Silbert reportedly refused, although the seven men originally indicted in the case were only those directly involved with the break-in.

The Senate sources said there are indications the President didn't know about the Watergate raid until after it occurred but that he was aware there was a political espionage operation within the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate sources said Monday investigators have evidence there was an elaborate White House effort to cover up high level involvement in the Watergate affair. The evidence indicates presidential aides H. R. Halderman and John D. Ehrlichman were among the participants, the sources said.

They said there is no question President Nixon was aware of a coverup effort, perhaps as early as a few days after the break-in at Democratic headquarters in the Watergate building June 17.

The sources refused to describe the reported cover-up in detail, but said one phase included "attempts to pressure other officials in the government to go along."

The sources said the other officials included ranking mem-

bers of the Justice Department and FBI.

Acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray presumably was in that group, and his testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee regarding the Watergate investigation indicated he refused to cooperate with the reported coverup.

"The coverup is even more damning than the Watergate itself," the sources said, and it likely will result in more resignation from the White House staff.

Ehrlichman, they predicted, will be among those forced to resign when the details of the operation become public.

Ehrlichman, chief of President Nixon's domestic affairs council so far has escaped prominent mention in reports of White House involvement in

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