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**Colson Says Dean Urged
Hunt to Flee the Country**

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WASHINGTON, June 7—John W. Dean 3d, the former White House counsel, ordered E. Howard Hunt, Jr., to flee the country two days after the Watergate burglary, Federal prosecutors have been told by Charles W. Colson, who was then special counsel to President Nixon.

Mr. Colson told the prosecutors that Mr. Dean was one of the first participants in the effort to conceal official connections with the plot.

He also quoted Mr. Dean as saying that he had been acting under orders from John D. Ehrlichman, then the President's chief domestic adviser.

Yet the Colson testimony, according to three sources close to the case, emphasized that Mr. Dean took a willing, knowing role in the cover-up when he ordered Hunt abroad and also in several later incidents.

Explosive Reaction

By Mr. Colson's account, given also to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Watergate grand jury, it was his own explosive reaction to the thought of sending Hunt abroad that killed the plan.

"I recall losing my temper and reacting very angrily," Mr. Colson told investigators. "I said something to the effect of 'that is the dumbest thing I have ever heard. You will have

the White House party to a fugitive from justice charge.'"

Mr. Dean later told him, Mr. Colson said, "that it was after I exploded that the order was rescinded."

Hunt, a onetime foreign intelligence agent, joined the White House staff, with Mr. Colson's recommendation, in the summer of 1971. On the night of the Watergate raid—the early hours of June 17, 1972—he was in a nearby hotel

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For months, he now says, he hesitated to report his misgivings to President Nixon and sought instead to keep his knowledge of the case to a minimum. Through the winter, he remained one of the most vehement critics of press revelations about the Watergate affair.

His reason for staying out of the investigation, he said in the interview, was that he feared any activity on his part would be used to reflect suspicion on President Nixon and other senior staff members who had not yet been directly implicated in wrongdoing.

"I was the principal guy through whom the press and

others were trying to get at the White House," Mr. Colson said in the interview in his private law office, two blocks from the President's office. "The defense mechanism that I employed—frankly for my own self-interest but, I'd like to think, primarily in the President's interest—was to keep myself uninvolved in Watergate."

However, in hindsight, Mr. Colson has told the prosecutors that he had good reason to believe that Mr. Dean was an active member of the cover-up team. He has said that he was first told on Jan. 3, 1973—more than three months before the first public reports in the newspapers—that Mr. Dean had helped to plan the Watergate bugging expedition.

Other Incidents Cited

At least three other incidents last summer and fall should have warned him, Mr. Colson now says, that Mr. Dean was not pursuing in earnest the White House investigation that President Nixon had assigned to him.

The first incident took place at the end of August. Following an interview with Federal prosecutors, at which Mr. Dean was present, Mr. Colson says that he composed a memorandum detailing all his contacts with Hunt.

He included the statement that in early 1972 he called Jeb Stuart Magruder, deputy director of the Nixon re-election committee, and instructed him to give closer attention to the campaign intelligence plans of Hunt and G. Gordon Liddy, who was later convicted of the Watergate burglary.

Mr. Colson insisted, however, that he had not known that bugging was part of the plan and never mentioned bugging to Mr. Magruder.

According to Mr. Colson's account to the prosecutors, he gave Mr. Dean a copy of the memorandum and urged him to forward a copy to Earl J. Silbert, the chief Watergate prosecutor. That day or the next, Mr. Colson said, Mr. Dean re-

turned the memorandum and told Mr. Colson to destroy it.

Mr. Dean's words "were to the effect, 'This impeaches Magruder,'" Mr. Colson said. "In hindsight," Mr. Colson told investigators, "I should have attached more significance to Dean's remarks than I did."

Tells of Phone Call

The second incident took place in late October, he said, when Hunt's wife, Dorothy, called Mr. Colson's office and asked, in an agitated voice, to speak to Mr. Colson. By Mr. Colson's sworn account to investigators, he told his secretary that he could not become involved in the matter and urged his secretary to refer Mrs. Hunt to Mr. Dean.

Mr. Colson said that he learned later from his secretary that Mrs. Hunt was upset about an interruption in the payments from Nixon associates to the Watergate defendants—payments that are now said to have been made in exchange for the defendants' silence.

A few days after Mrs. Hunt's call, Mr. Colson has said, his secretary met Mr. Dean in a White House corridor and asked how the problem had been resolved. According to Mr. Colson, Mr. Dean told his secretary, "Forget about it. That's been taken care off"—a remark that Mr. Colson now interprets to mean that Mr. Dean helped to distribute "hush money."

The third incident, at the end of November, began with a telephone call from Hunt to Mr. Colson. After refusing to take Hunt's call, Mr. Colson says, he was advised by Mr. Dean to talk with his old

friend, then awaiting trial, and he did.

As a precaution, Mr. Colson said, he taped the conversation—a long, rambling discussion in which Hunt did most of the talking and stated indirectly that the defendants' money was coming from the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

Without making his own transcript, Mr. Colson says, he immediately gave the tape to Mr. Dean and told him to "find out what was going on—what the people at 1701 [Pennsylvania Avenue, the address of the re-election committee headquarters] were doing.

"Sometime late that day or the next day," Mr. Colson has told investigators, "Dean called me to tell me that no transcript should be made, that he would keep the tape, that I should do nothing, [that] this was his responsibility, and that he would handle the matter."

Mr. Colson now doubts that Mr. Dean investigated the matter at all.

Mr. Dean's lawyers indicated today that they were unwilling to discuss Mr. Colson's charges against their client.

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room trying to coordinate operations by walkie-talkie. However, he was not arrested when the burglars were.

Two days later, according to published accounts, Hunt checked into a hotel at Kennedy International Airport in New York. On Wednesday, June 20, he flew to Los Angeles.

Hunt was indicted for conspiracy and on other charges last Sept. 15 and pleaded guilty last Jan. 11. He is now imprisoned at Danbury, Conn.

First of Many Clues

Mr. Colson, who has denied all foreknowledge and subsequent involvement in the Watergate affair, is now referring to the discussion of Hunt's flight from the country as the first of many clues that should have aroused his suspicion about the case. A number of the incidents involved Mr. Dean, he says.

In a recent interview on Watergate questions, Mr. Colson insisted that it was not until the end of August, 1972, that he believed that the top management of the Nixon campaign committee was involved in the burglary. And it was not until early January, 1973, Mr. Colson said, that he had reason to suspect that White House officials were involved in the cover-up.