

From long report, 12 minutes, on Watergate; Joe Belden

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Judy Miller [Pacifica Washington Bureau]: The Washington Post further reported that Frederick LaRue, a former White House aide and long-time confidant of Mitchell's, was also involved in payment of \$100,000 in cash to keep the Watergate Seven quiet. And Columnist Jack Anderson reported this morning that former White House assistant Gordon Strachan told the grand jury that White House chief of staff H.R. Haldeman ordered \$350,000 in cash locked in a White House safe during Nixon's re-election campaign last year. Anderson said that Strachan testified that after the election he returned the funds in \$20, \$50 and \$100 bills to Mitchell's confidant LaRue at LaRue's Watergate apartment. The [Pacifica] Washington Bureau has learned from sources close to the grand jury that Anderson's report of the secret testimony is - quote - "100% accurate."

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... The AP says that its sources close to the Senate's Watergate investigation feel that Justice Department plans to seek grand jury indictments against eight present and former Nixon administration officials and employees. The sources say indictments against four of the eight are likely to be handed down next week by a federal grand jury. They added that [the] Justice Department plans to ask for perjury charges against Magruder and Sally Harmony, secretary to G. Gordon Liddy, one of the Watergate conspirators. The AP's sources say that besides Magruder and Miss Harmony, indictments may be sought against John Mitchell, John Dean, Frederick LaRue, Gordon Strachan, Dwight Chapin and Charles Colson. These sources say that LaRue, who is a Mitchell associate and a high official in the Nixon campaign, and Strachan, a former aide to White House chief of staff H.R. Haldeman, could be charged with financial misconduct in connection with the handling of campaign funds. The charges against Mitchell and Dean would presumably center around the planning of the break-in. Miss Harmony, the AP says, might be indicted to bring pressure on Liddy to talk. Liddy's attorney visited him today in jail ... [and] the lawyer told newsmen that his client has not changed his mind about his silence.

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The opened safe [in Senator Lowell Weicker's office] was discovered this morning by William Wickens [phonetic], who is running Senator Weicker's own personal investigation of the Watergate case. The Senator has reportedly said that this investigation has implicated high ranking White House aides. Wickens said today that he locked the safe yesterday afternoon and then checked, double-checked and triple-checked to make sure it was secure. He said that there was no immediate sign that any of the hundreds of documents inside the safe had been stolen, but he said that there is a possibility that some of the documents could have been photographed. He said that another possibility is that someone is seeking to identify the Senator's sources of information. He said each file envelope is marked with the names of the source of the information inside. Only three staff aides had the combination, he said, and none of them opened the locked files after they were closed for the day. He said, "The safe was definitely locked - that is one thing for sure. Everything else is a mystery."

Another Watergate mystery turned up today, this one involving eight cardboard boxes removed from a White House office last summer. David Selvin [Pacifica, Washington] has the story.

Selvin: In a motion filed late today at U.S. district court here, a Washington lawyer by the name of Peter Wolfe alleged that eight cartons of documents, including plans to - quote - "bug the Watergate" and lists of secret Nixon campaign contributors, were hauled away from the White House the morning after the break-in at Democratic National Headquarters and hidden from authorities. The charge by Wolfe^{SA 12} that an unnamed client of his had kept the papers hidden through the summer and returned them to the Committee to Re-elect the President at its request - quote - "shortly before the election." Although Wolfe refused to name the client he did say he had represented him on other matters. Anyway, in court Wolfe asked U.S. district judge John Sirica to issue an order protecting

himself (that is, Wolfe) from being cited for contempt. Wolfe's motion was the first public indication that documentary evidence relating to the Watergate political espionage affair had been withheld from government authorities investigating the affair.

According to the Washington lawyer, he received a telephone call last summer from his client, who enquired whether he was in danger of violating any law if he had hidden in his possession approximately eight cartons containing, among other things, the contents of E. Howard Hunt's desk at the White House before the FBI got there. There was considerable testimony at the Watergate trial in January about how Nixon aides cleaned out Hunt's office on the Monday following the actual break-in, though apparently, if the Wolfe story is accurate, they did so one day after his client took the documents.

Later, Wolfe said, he came across new information which showed that his client worked for the Committee to Re-elect the President, that he had been asked to pick up the cartons at the Executive Office Building on the Sunday after the break-in, that a pass would be waiting for him at the guard entrance, that no questions would be asked when the cartons were removed from the building, and none were.

Belden: Wolfe told newsmen later in the day that his client was a low-ranking employee in the Nixon campaign. He said that he has never seen the documents that his client told him about and added that he believes that most of the material that had not been turned over to the court, as a result of the suit filed by Common Cause, has now been destroyed.

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