

Haldeman Denies Any Part In Coverup Of Watergate

F Post 6/1/73

(Continued From Page A-1)
six days after the June 17, 1972 break-in at Democratic Party headquarters in the Watergate Office Building.

Haldeman, Ehrlichman, CIA director Richard Helms and Walters were at that meeting.

Walters testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee in mid-May that Haldeman told him to tell Gray that if the FBI pursued an investigation of funds in Mexico, connected with the Watergate case, the inquiry would compromise certain CIA activities and resources in Mexico.

Walters said he then passed the word to Gray, who in turn said the FBI postponed action until later, when it was learned there was no CIA involvement.

Ehrlichman and Haldeman gave a different version of the meeting to newsmen after their separate McClellan subcommittee appearances Wednesday and Thursday.

Haldeman said: "At the meeting, Gen. Walters was asked to meet with Director Gray of the FBI to insure that any unrelated covert operations of the CIA or any unrelated national security activities which had been previously undertaken by some of the Watergate principals not be compromised in the process of the Watergate investigation and the attendant publicity and political furor.

WASHINGTON (AP) — H.R. Haldeman said Thursday that "at no time, nor in any way," did he participate in covering up the Watergate affair while he was President Nixon's chief of staff.

His testimony conflicts with that of others who attended an important House meeting last June 23, according to a senator and a congressman on separate investigating committees.

"I believe all of my actions were proper, in accord with the President's instructions and clearly in the national inter-

est," Haldeman told newsmen after testifying for three hours behind the closed doors of a Senate subcommittee.

But Sen. John L. McClellan, D-Ark., chairman of a subcommittee looking into Central Intelligence Agency aspects of the watergate scandal coverup, said there were serious conflicts between the testimony of White House aides and top officials of the CIA and FBI.

On the other side of Congress, House Intelligence subcommittee chairman Lucien N. Nedzi D-Mich., said there were "considerable disparities" also in the sworn testimonies of former Deputy CIA Director Vernon Walters and former FBI Director L. Patrick Gray III.

"I believe it would be appropriate for the Justice Department to review this matter," Nedzi said after Gray appeared before his subcommittee for three hours. "We have two versions under oath that are not consistent."

Nedzi refused to detail the differences, but indicated they involved the question of whether the White House tried to get the CIA to block part of the FBI's Watergate investigation.

Central to the issue is a meeting held in John D. Ehrlichman's White House office

See DENIES, Page A-3