

Comparison of Nixon and Dean Statements

6/26/73

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 27—Following is a comparison of statements on the Watergate scandal by President Nixon and testimony before the Senate Watergate Committee by John W. Dean 3d, the discharged White House Counsel:

NIXON

DEAN

On the Nixon Inquiry

On March 21, . . . I began intensive new inquiries into this whole matter.

. . . The President commenced no investigation at all. Rather, the President, Haldeman, and Ehrlichman commenced to protect themselves against the unravaling of the cover-up.

On Haldeman and Ehrlichman Roles

I emphasize that neither the submission nor the acceptance of their resignations at this time [April 30] should be seen by anyone as evidence of any wrongdoing by either one. Such an assumption would be both unfair and unfounded.

He told me [on Feb. 27] that this matter was taking too much time from Haldeman's and Ehrlichman's normal duties, and he also told me that they were principals in the matter, and I, therefore, could be more objective than they.

On Prior Knowledge of Wiretapping

Last June 17, . . . I first learned from news reports of the Watergate break-in. I was appalled at this senseless, illegal action. . . .

It was during this period of time—which I believe was mid-February—Magruder had a conversation with Mr. [Paul L.] O'Brien [an attorney for the re-election committee] in which he told Mr. O'Brien that he had received his final authorization for Liddy's activities from Gordon Strachan and that Strachan had reported that Haldeman had cleared the matter with the President. . . . I have no first-hand knowledge if the President had prior knowledge of the Watergate operation. . . .

On Judicial Process

It is essential no what we place our faith in that system—and especially in the judicial system. It is essential that system—and especially in the judicial system. It is essential that we let the judicial process go forward. . . .

I then [Sept. 15] told the President that the lawyers at the re-election committee were very hopeful of slowing down the civil suit filed by the Democratic National Committee because they had been making ex parte contacts with the judge handling the case and the judge was very understanding and trying to accommodate their problems. The President was pleased to hear this and responded to the effect that, 'Well, that's helpful.'

On the Cover-Up

I took no part in, nor was I aware of, any subsequent efforts that may have been made to cover up Watergate.

I believe the President was aware of an effort to cover up the Watergate.

NIXON

DEAN

On Executive Clemency

At no time did I authorize any offer of executive clemency for the Watergate defendants, nor did I know of any such offer.

The President [on March 13] then referred to the fact that Hunt had been promised executive clemency.

On Hush Money

I did not know until the time of my own investigation [March 21] of any effort to provide the Watergate defendants with funds.

I told the President [on March 13] about the fact that there were money demands being made by the seven convicted defendants. He asked me how much it would cost. I told him that . . . it might be as high as a million dollars or more. He told me that that was no problem, and he also looked over at Haldeman and repeated the same statement. He said [on April 15] that he had, of course, only been joking when he made that comment.

On C.I.A. Involvement

At no time did I attempt, or did I authorize others to attempt, to implicate the C.I.A. in the Watergate matter.

I have no first-hand knowledge on that. When I first met with them . . . I was doing this per Mr. Ehrlichman's instructions that he thought it was a very good thing that I explore with the C.I.A. if they could provide some assistance.

On Burglary at Office of Ellsberg Psychiatrist

It was not until the time of my own investigation [March 21] that I learned of the break-in at the office of Mr. Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

Krough responded that no, he did not believe that Ehrlichman had been aware of the incident until shortly after it had occurred; rather, he had received his orders [on the burglary] right out of the Oval Office. I only have hearsay knowledge on that matter.

On Understanding the Conspiracy

With hindsight, it is apparent that I should have given more heed to the warning signals I received along the way about a Watergate cover-up and less to the reassurances.

After I finished [outlining the cover-up on March 21], I realized that I had not really made the President understand because after he asked a few questions, he suggested that it would be an excellent idea if I gave some sort of briefing to the Cabinet and that he was very impressed with my knowledge of the circumstances, but he did not seem particularly concerned with their implications."