

Dean Hearing Highlights

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WASHINGTON, June 25—Following are highlights of John W. Dean 3d's testimony today before the Senate Watergate committee:

On his role—Mr. Dean acknowledged that he had participated in many aspects of the cover-up after the bugging of the Democrats, but that he knew nothing about the wiretap plans in advance. In general, he depicted himself as a restraining influence regarding some illegal proposals for political and radical surveillance that were made after he became White House counsel in 1970. He said he spent two weeks in early April as a virtual double-agent in the White House, continuing to attend staff meetings while cooperating with Federal prosecutors.

On President Nixon—Mr. Dean described President Nixon as having at least some knowledge of the Watergate cover-up after the June, 1972, break-in. He said that Mr. Nixon permitted the cover-up to continue throughout late March and early April even after Mr. Dean told him about some of the cover-up plans. Mr. Dean added that the President had discussed with him the possibility of executive clemency for some of the Watergate conspirators as well as the continued payments of cover-up funds to them.

On H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman—Mr. Dean depicted the two former high-level White House aides as the prime unseen orchestrators of the cover-up. He said he took few steps without consulting one or the other. His belief they were attempting to "set him up," Mr. Dean said, made him decide to begin cooperating with the prosecutors. Mr. Dean cited evidence indicating that Mr. Haldeman received information from the wiretap in the Democratic National Headquarters before the arrests last June.

On John N. Mitchell—Mr. Dean described the former Attorney General as having a far more important role than previously known in the White House decision-making early this year in connection with the cover-up. Many of the cover-up payments were channeled through Mr. Mitchell, he testified, and his advice on crucial questions as the cover-up began to unravel was repeatedly

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sought by Mr. Haldeman and Mr. Ehrlichman, among others.

On Charles W. Colson—Mr. Dean said that the former special Presidential counsel had directly intervened with Mr. Nixon to seek executive clemency for E. Howard Hunt Jr., a Watergate conspirator who had been brought into the White House in 1971 at Mr. Colson's urging. President Nixon later complained to him, Mr. Dean said, about Mr. Colson's request. Mr. Dean described Mr. Colson as someone who "protested too much" about his innocence but that he had nothing more than suspicion to justify his feeling that Mr. Colson knew a great deal about the bugging operation in advance.

On Henry E. Petersen—Mr. Dean said Mr. Petersen, the assistant Attorney General who was placed in charge of the Watergate inquiry, was always willing "to do what he can" to aid the White House in keeping the lid on the initial F.B.I. inquiry. Mr. Dean said Mr. Petersen repeatedly took steps to insure that the normal rules of inquiry and investigation were not applied to members of the White House staff.

On political espionage—Mr. Dean gave numerous examples of what he termed the "excessive concern" in the White House for data on antiwar demonstrators as well as political information. This concern, he suggested, coupled "with a do-it-yourself White House staff, regardless of the law," created the climate for Watergate. In tracing the attitude directly to President Nixon, Mr. Dean told of Mr. Nixon's displeasure late in 1971 upon seeing a lone demonstrator with a large antiwar sign in the small park in front of the White House. One aide, told of the displeasure, planned to hire some "thugs" to drive the man away, Mr. Dean said, but was dissuaded.

On suborning of a judge—Mr. Dean said he learned late last summer that the White House attempted to put pressure on the judge who was hearing the Democratic party's civil suit filed in connection with Watergate to delay the case until after the election. Some meetings between White House representatives and Judge Charles R. Richey were held as late as March of this year, Mr. Dean said. He named Mr. Mitchell as among those aware of the effort.

On Donald E. Segretti—Mr. Dean told of a White House cover-up in connection with the political surveillance and espionage activities of Mr. Segretti, who operated a field of agent provocateurs during the Democratic primary elections in 1972. Mr. Dean said he briefed Mr. Segretti before his subsequent grand jury appearance last August and also tried to arrange—through Mr. Petersen—that no embarrassing questions would be asked. After he interviewed Mr. Segretti about his activities, Mr. Dean said, the information was apparently relayed to Mr. Nixon. The President subsequently decided to discharge Dwight C. Chapin, his appointments secretary who served as the chief White House link to Mr. Segretti. Mr. Chapin's resignation was later said to be unrelated to Watergate.