

What actually happened could hardly have been more demeaning to the President or the presidency, by then a minor consideration, so much had both been besmirched.

Nixon and those doing his bidding were desperate because of the nature of Dean's testimony, its credibility and the tremendous attention to it. The TV networks, which had been telecasting the hearings on a rotating basis, all aired Dean. (When he was followed by Mitchell, who had been the second most powerful man in government, they reverted to the rotation.) Bushardt's really was the Nixonian attempt to assassinate Dean, so to speak. When it failed, there was desperation, as there was the ~~inflaming of the~~ further debasing of Nixon's self-respect and self-concept. So, all official White House spokesmen fell all over themselves in a series of contradictory official statements the language and intent of which were to make it appear that Bushardt spoke and questioned for no one except himself.

This despite the official White House contact with the Senators, particularly Inoye, despite the typing of Bushardt's material on White House stationery, ~~and~~ its delivery ~~xx~~ by a White House messenger, even Bushardt/White House personal communication with Inoye about the "questions".

These were Nixon's futile, propagandist, non-lawyerly questions. ~~Erzzzzzzzzzzzz~~ After the seriously adverse reaction to the form and content of the attack on Dean and its having kicked back into Nixon's face, a series of false claims of Nixon disassociation with them were made by the White House. In their seemingly final form, Nixon had known nothing about them and Bushardt was a "self-starter", the phrase actually employed by the White House and its spokesmen at the time of the apprehended Watergate crime.

It was even claimed that Bushardt had not seen the President. This false claim was made as late as Friday, July 9. However, the truth escaped July 10. Bushardt had, indeed, seen Nixon. Press spokesman Gerald Warren claimed there had been no intent to lie.

"It was just staff inefficiency," to told reporters.