

Dean Implicated in Effort To Spy on 1972 Protesters



UPI Telephoto

MRS. MARTHA MITCHELL returns to her apartment in New York for Mother's Day.

Cash Offer Is Reported By Official

By SEYMOUR M. HERSH
N. Y. Times News Service

Washington — John W. Dean 3d, tried to set up an espionage and intelligence ring to infiltrate antiwar groups before the Democratic and Republican national conventions last year, government sources say.

President Nixon fired Dean as White House counsel two weeks ago.

The sources said that Dean summoned an official of the Interior Department to his office in May, 1972, two months before the Democratic convention in Miami Beach, and offered him a large sum of cash either to participate in or to direct an undercover network.

Reportedly Distressed

The official, Kernith Tapman, who handled negotiations for the Interior Department before the massive antiwar demonstrations in Washington in 1969 and 1970, acknowledged in a brief telephone interview that Dean had made the offer. Tapman refused to discuss the incident further, however.

Other sources familiar with the incident said, however, that Tapman was distressed at Dean's offer and rejected it out of hand. Investigators have not yet determined whether the infiltration program ever did get set up before the convention, the sources said.

The report of Dean's recruiting attempt was the first to link him to any direct involvement in any Republican spying operations that, by May of last year, had been set up elsewhere in the White House and in the Committee to Reelect the President. Dean had previously acknowledged participating — under orders, he maintains — in the cover-up of the break-in at the Watergate offices of the Democrats on June 17, 1972.

Said to Be Surprised

Dean and Tapman began their association at the time of the antiwar demonstrations in Washington in 1969, the sources said. Dean was serving then as a Justice Department official charged with coordinating the Govern-

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ment's response to demonstrations. Tapman was assigned by the Interior Department to arrange permits and other necessities for the demonstrators on government property.

Tapman has told associates that he was surprised at the involvement of Dean and the White House in undercover police work.

"He knew that there were legal and official means to get information on protests (from various federal police agencies)," one friend said, "and that there was no need to go outside of official channels."

Government sources said that when Dean moved over to the White House in 1970, he continued to monitor student antiwar and radical activities, along with a small, unofficial White House force assigned to handle the problem.

Others on the force by 1971, the sources said, were Egil Krogh Jr., the under secretary of transportation who resigned last week after disclosures about his role in the burglary of the office of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist, and John J. Caulfield, a Treasury Department official who went on administrative leave yesterday after the Los Angeles Times reported that he had tried to put pressure on

James W. McCord Jr., one of the Watergate break-in team, to keep quiet with a promise of executive clemency.

One government source provided the following account of the Dean-Tapman meeting:

"In May of 1972, John Dean called Tapman into his office and asked him if he would be willing to do undercover work at the Republican and Democratic conventions. Tapman was indignant but said, 'I might be willing to do what I did for you guys two years ago (when Dean was at the Justice Department) if I could work aboveboard.

"'But if you're asking me to spy and to go undercover and infiltrate some organizations, I'll have no part of it.' So Dean says 'I'll have to look into whether we can arrange that kind of an aboveboard deal. But if you don't want to go undercover, there's plenty of money and if you want to hire people to do it, we'll give it to you.'"

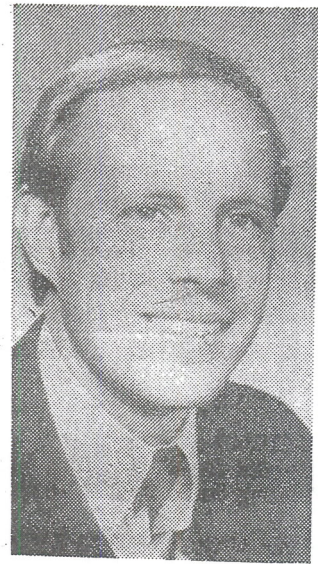
Federal officials have said that some of the funds to finance a similar espionage and spying operation directed by officials in the office of H. R. Haldeman, the White House chief of staff who resigned two weeks ago, were supplied by Herbert W. Kalmbach, Mr. Nixon's former personal attorney who served as a Republican fund-raiser in 1972.

Continues in Role

One reliable source noted that Dean's "whole experience at the Justice Department was in dealing with infiltration and undercover work in radical groups."

"When he went to the White House," the source added, "his principal job was not to advise the President legally, but rather it was to continue what he had been doing at Justice — keeping an eye on radical groups."

Dean's chief deputy, the



James W. Dean 3d

source said, was Caulfield, who joined the White House staff of John D. Ehrlichman, the President's domestic adviser, in 1969 after serving as a plainclothes man with the New York City Police Department and working as a bodyguard for John N. Mitchell, the former attorney general who was indicted last week, during the 1968 campaign. Caulfield joined the reelection committee late in 1971, the source said, to work again for Mitchell.

An associate of McCord's confirmed yesterday that the Watergate conspirator had been approached by Caulfield at least once early this year and urged to remain silent in return for an assurance of executive clemency after serving 10 or 11 months in jail.

The Los Angeles Times said that two secret meetings between McCord and Caulfield were held in woods across the Potomac river from Washington.

Caulfield, 44, is known to have interviewed McCord two or three times before McCord was hired as director of security for the reelection committee late in 1971.