

Nixon's Faith in Burger

New York

Former White House counsel John W. Dean III said yesterday he was told that Richard Nixon was confident after talking with Chief Justice Warren Burger that the Supreme Court would rule in the former President's favor in the suit over the White House tapes.

Dean said he was told about the alleged conversations by Charles Colson, a former White House aide.

The interview with Dean was aired on the NBC news.

Spokesmen for both Burger and Mr. Nixon denied Dean's assertions, NBC said.

NBC correspondent Carl Stern asked Dean how Mr. Nixon thought he would win the court fight.

"... He seemed to have confidence," Dean replied. "And I'm told he had some conversations with the chief justice, Chief Justice Burger, shortly after this suit was filed or somewhere along the line and it gave him confidence that he was going to win the lawsuit."

"That was some time in

The Weather Was Unspeakable

Hartford, Conn.

It rained, sleeted and snowed in Connecticut Monday, but these were not among the subjects on which attorney L. Patrick Gray III of Stonington, former acting FBI director, would allow himself to comment.

Gray, whose FBI career ended after he admitted burning in his fireplace documents from Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt's

the spring of 1974?" Stern asked.

"I don't know the precise time," Dean said. "But I do know that from those calls he had a confidence he was going to win the lawsuit."

A spokesman for Burger said the chief justice told him that "at no time in the whole year of 1974, at no time during the whole year of 1973 did he talk to President Nixon at any time about Watergate."

Mr. Nixon lost the court

safe, appeared at a brief U.S. District Court ceremony for him and 14 other candidates for admission to the bar.

"I have no comment to make to any newspaper, even about the weather," Gray told reporters.

"How is the weather?" he was asked anyway.

"I have no comment," he said.

Reuters

battle over the tapes. The subsequent release of the tapes led him to resign the presidency August 9.

Dean was released from prison last week. Colson remains imprisoned.

While he was in prison and sharing a cell with Colson, Dean said Colson told him of the alleged Burger-Nixon conversations.

"I learned it . . . from Mr. Colson," Dean said, "in our conversations of trying to put all the pieces together and figure out what

had happened, why it happened, where things had gone wrong and how this had all come about."

"I understand," Stern said, "that Colson had significant knowledge of CIA activities and frankly there was a story some time ago that you had knowledge of a CIA break-in into the Chilean embassy, the planting of a bug and so on. Is that true? Did you talk about that with Colson?"

"To answer the first part of your question, Chuck did have," Dean replied. "He read the CIA file on Watergate and amongst the files he read that the CIA also thought I had knowledge about the Chilean embassy break-in, which I didn't, but worried about my knowledge and my potential testimony."

"The CIA had arrangements made to have the FBI go in and remove the devices within the Chilean embassy before I testified."

Stern asked, "These materials Colson had access to, then, verify there was a bug in the Chilean embassy?"

"That's correct, that's my understanding, yes," Dean said.

Associated Press